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# Samson dazzles for CSK

Opener's unbeaten 87 gives visitors 8-wicket win over Delhi

*Page 14*

# Biocon founder names niece Claire as successor

*Page 12*

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# Bengaluru to craft its own $300 bn economy roadmap

Page 3C

**Nation**

SC flags biased practice against Parsi women in interfaith marriages P.10

**Business**

RBI issues draft norms for banks, NBFCs P.12

**World**

China factory blast kills 26 P.11

**State**

Late kits hit Census work P.5

# Vijay to stake claim to form govt, may get Cong support

**TN MOVES:** Elected TVK legislature party leader; to meet Guv today

E T B SIVAPRIYAN & SHEMIN JOY
CHENNAI/NEW DELHI, DHNS

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president C Joseph Vijay was on Tuesday elected as the leader of the legislature party and is likely to meet Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar on Wednesday to stake claim to form the government.

The meeting on Wednesday comes as the Congress, a key ally of the DMK, is set to extend support to the TVK to form the government.

A formal decision on the support is expected Wednesday morning after a meeting of senior leaders, MLAs and MPs of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee.

"The high command has told the TNCC to discuss the issue and take a decision," a top source told *DH*, adding that if the party decides to join the government, the TVK is likely to allot a couple of Cabinet berths.

TVK, which won 108 seats, had reached out to the Congress, which won five seats, but it was not clear whether similar invitations have been extended to other parties like the CPI, CPM, VCK and IUML, which have collectively won eight seats.

> At this moment, I also send my love to our own people who forgot to vote for us in this election but will love us more in the coming times.
> **TVK chief Vijay**

TVK chief Vijay arrives at the party headquarters in Chennai on Tuesday. PTI

"Once the formalities are done, Vijay will be sworn in as the chief minister. We will seek about 15 days to prove our strength," a source said, adding that Thursday was also a probable date for the swearing-in.

Vijay is likely to take oath alone or with about five senior leaders and expand his Cabinet after winning the trust vote.

▸ Vijay, Page 6

## Shah, Nadda observers for Bengal, Assam

After the party registered a win in West Bengal, and broke electoral records in Assam, the BJP appointed Home Minister Amit Shah as the observer to Bengal and former party president J P Nadda as the observer to Assam. Shah will be assisted by Odisha CM Mohan Manjhi.
Details on Page 7

## Won't quit as CM, lost due to conspiracy, claims Didi

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

Though her party lost the Assembly elections, Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said she would not resign as West Bengal chief minister, claiming the BJP's victory was the result of a conspiracy by the saffron party and the Election Commission, but not a mandate of the people.

Mamata said TMC would take to the streets over the "loot" of the mandate of the people by the BJP and the EC. She also said she had already received calls from several I.N.D.I.A. leaders expressing solidarity and that she, herself, now being "a free bird", would strengthen the Opposition bloc to oust the BJP from power from the Centre.

"The question of my resignation does not arise, as we were defeated not by a public mandate but by a conspiracy...I did not lose, I will not go to Lok Bhavan," Mamata told journalists at her residence in Kalighat in Kolkata. "Why should I resign? We have not lost. Votes have been looted."

Outgoing West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata on Tuesday. PTI

Mamata's statement comes amid the Election Commission's notification on Tuesday for the constitution of a new Assembly in West Bengal.

The five-year term of Assembly would end on May 7.

Mamata, Page 6

# Centre throws Rs 2.5L-cr lifeline for MSMEs amid war challenges

**Credit guarantee cover of 100% for MSMEs, 90% for others**

**Relief package**

- The scheme aims to provide credit guarantee coverage of 100% for MSMEs and 90% for non-MSMEs
- It aims to enable businesses to tide over the challenges arising from the West Asia conflict
- It will also include Rs 5,000 crore for airlines

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved Rs 2.55 lakh crore emergency credit line guarantee scheme to help businesses, especially MSMEs, tide over the challenges arising from the West Asia conflict.

The scheme aims to provide credit guarantee coverage of 100% for MSMEs and 90% for non-MSMEs.

The scheme includes Rs 5,000 crore credit support for the airlines sector.

Under the scheme, loans will be provided to businesses without any guarantee fees.

For the airline sector, the duration will be seven years from the date of first disbursement, including a moratorium of two years. For others, the duration will be five years, including a moratorium of one year.

MSMEs and non-MSMEs with existing working capital limits and scheduled passenger airlines having outstanding credit facilities, as of March 31, 2026, are eligible for the scheme.

"The scheme aims to enable businesses to tide over the challenges arising from the West Asia conflict. Additionally, this is expected to help businesses maintain their operations, protect jobs, and sustain supply chains," it said.

The proposed credit guarantee scheme is a major step to help businesses, particularly MSMEs and the airline sector, to ensure their additional working capital needs are catered to by banks and other financial institutions.

By providing timely liquidity, the scheme will sustain the businesses. It will also promote uninterrupted domestic production and maintain resilience of the ecosystem.

The quantum of support includes additional credit up to 20% of peak working capital utilised during the January-March 2026 quarter (capped at Rs 100 crore). For airlines, it is up to 100% (capped at Rs 1,500 crore per borrower, subject to certain specific conditions).

## Green light for Guntakal-Wadi rail project

**The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Tuesday approved three railway multi-tracking projects including Guntakal – Wadi 3rd and 4th Line railway line. Other two projects include: Nagda – Mathura 3rd and 4th Line and Burhwal – Sitapur 3rd and 4th Line.**
Details on Page 3D

# Under attack, says UAE; truce holding: US

WASHINGTON/CAIRO, REUTERS: The United Arab Emirates said it was under attack from Iranian missiles and drones on Tuesday, even as Washington said a shaky ceasefire was intact despite an exchange of fire the previous day as US forces attempted to force open the Strait of Hormuz.

The US military said it had destroyed six Iranian small boats, as well as cruise missiles and drones, after President Donald Trump sent the navy to escort stranded tankers through the strait in a campaign he called "Project Freedom".

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said the operation to protect commercial ships was temporary and the four-week-old truce was not over. "We're not looking for a fight," he told a press conference. "Right now the ceasefire certainly holds, but we're going to be watching very, very closely."

Iran fired missiles at US ships on Monday and attacked the UAE, a key regional ally of Washington, with missiles and drones.

Shortly after Hegseth spoke on Tuesday, the UAE's defence ministry said its air defences were again dealing with missile and drone attacks coming from Iran.

Another report on Page 11

Shock proof

**'India most resilient economy'**

India has been the most resilient large emerging market economy since 2020, and its sizeable Forex reserves have helped check the currency volatility and also reinforce confidence during global shocks, Moody's Ratings said on Tuesday.

P 12

Sharp rise

**Auto retail sales surge 13% in April**

Retail auto sales rose by 12.94% year-on-year to 26.11 lakh units in April led by strong demand for passenger vehicles, two-wheelers and tractors in rural India, as per industry data released on Tuesday.

Passenger vehicle retails in April jumped by 12.21% to 4,07,355 units.

P 12

# BJP meets Guv, accuses Speaker of delaying oath to Sringeri MLA-elect

BENGALURU, DHNS

Accusing Speaker UT Khader of delaying administering the oath to DN Jeevaraj, who was declared the winner after the recounting of postal ballots for the 2023 Sringeri Assembly seat, a BJP delegation met Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot on Tuesday and urged him to administer the oath instead of the Speaker.

Speaker Khader, however, said that there has been no delay.

The development came two days after the recounting was conducted, where Jeevaraj — the defeated candidate — was declared as the winner.

BJP leaders with Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Congress candidate, TD Rajegowda, lodged a complaint, based on which an FIR was registered. However, the HC has stayed investigation into the FIR.

Speaking to reporters after meeting the Governor, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka said, "After recounting, Jeevaraj has been declared the winner. The government has also issued the necessary gazette notification. We have submitted a letter to the Speaker. I called him yesterday, but he wasn't available. Today, he is lecturing me about the law... The Speaker alone is not allowing the oath and has started a new precedent."

The LoP noted that the Governor has the power to nominate someone else if the Speaker is unavailable.

Khader clarified that there had been no delay and said it wasn't right for the BJP to accuse him of delaying when the party submitted a request on Tuesday.

▸ Sringeri, Page 6

## CM alleges 'vote dacoity'

**Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday accused the BJP of "criminal conspiracy" and "vote dacoity" in Sringeri Assembly constituency, where BJP candidate D N Jeevaraj has been declared the winner.** P5

# Never pulled out of RR bid: Somani-led group

BENGALURU, DHNS

Two days after a group led by industrialist Lakshmi N Mittal struck a definitive deal to acquire the controlling stake of the Rajasthan Royals, Kal Somani–led consortium denied that it pulled out of the bidding process, asserting that the final outcome does not reflect a "level playing field".

Somani-led group had made an offer of $1.63 billion and the agreement was assumed to be a done deal in March.

However, reports appeared last week that Mittals, along with strategic partners, had emerged as front runners to take over the Royals and two days later the same confirmed by the new owners.

The franchise had stated that the consortium comprising Somani (Tech Entrepreneur), Rob Walton (Walmart Group) and Sheila Ford Hamp (Ford group) had pulled out of the race after which Lakshmi Mittal and his son Aditya, along with Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla, bought a majority stake in Rajasthan Royals for $1.65 billion (Rs 15,600 crore approximately).

▸ RR sale, Page 6

## New rule on surrendering engg seats

BENGALURU DHNS: The Karnataka Examinations Authority will not accept engineering seats surrendered by private colleges after the first round of seat allotment. The higher education department has taken the decision as it inconveniences students.
Details on Page 3D

SABARIMALA ROW

# PIL has become 'publicity, paisa, political' interest litigation: SC

## Cabinet nod to increase SC judges to 37

**The Union Cabinet on Tuesday gave its approval to raise the strength of judges in the Supreme Court from 33 to 37, excluding the Chief Justice of India. According to an official statement, the increase in the number of judges will allow the Supreme Court to function more efficiently and effectively ensuring speedy justice. It said, the expenditure on salary will be met from the Consolidated Fund of India.** P6

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday strongly disapproved of the misuse of Public Interest Litigation, saying that it has now become 'Private Interest Litigation', 'Publicity Interest Litigation', 'Paisa Interest Litigation' and 'Political Interest Litigation'.

A nine-judge Constitution bench led by CJI Surya Kant was hearing petitions regarding discrimination against women at religious sites, including Kerala's Sabarimala temple, as well as the scope of religious freedom across various faiths.

The bench also comprised Justices B V Nagarathna, M M Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, Augustine George Masih, Prasanna B Varale, R Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi.

The bench questioned the objective of the Indian Young Lawyers' Association regarding its 2006 PIL, which challenged the prohibition of women aged 10 to 50 from entering the Sabarimala temple.

Advocate Ravi Prakash Gupta, who represented the lawyers' association, argued that the PIL was based on four newspaper articles published in June 2006.

The bench asked, "How does this article give the cause of action to file a PIL?" "It is easy to get articles written for the sake of filing PILs," observed the bench.

Justice Nagarathna said, "We have been entertaining PILs for the general public who need it. Not for articles being written in newspapers."

"Public Interest Litigation has now become Private Interest Litigation, Publicity Interest Litigation, Paisa Interest Litigation and Political Interest Litigation. All are called PILs, but we entertain only real and genuine PILs," she added.

▸ PIL, Page 6

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**Department of Cyber Security (CyS)**
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- M.Tech in Computer Science Engineering- Cyber Security- (For Working Professionals Only)
- Post Graduate Diploma in Cyber Security with Artificial Intelligence

### School of Computer Applications & Technology

**Department of Computer Applications & Technology**
- M.Sc. Computer Science
- M.Sc. in Data Science
- MCA
- MCA (Industry Oriented Specialization in Web Designing and Security)
- MCA (Industry Oriented Specialization in Cloud Computing)
- MCA (Industry Oriented Specialization in Computer Network and Cyber Security)
- MCA (Industry Oriented Specialization in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning)
- MCA (Industry Oriented Specialization in Data Analytics)

### School of Engineering

**Department of Civil Engineering**
- M.Tech in Geotechnical Engineering
- M.Tech in Structural Engineering
- M.Tech in Transportation Engineering
- M.Tech in Structural Engineering - (For Working Professionals Only)
- M.Tech in Transportation Engineering - (For Working Professionals Only)

**Department of Electrical, Electronics & Communication Engineering**
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- M.Tech in Communication Engineering (Satellite Communication)
- M.Tech Electronics Engineering (VLSI Design and Technology)
- M.Tech Electronics and Communication (Advanced Communication Technology)
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- M.Tech in Mechanical Engineering (CAD/CAM and Robotics)

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**Department of Defence Technology**
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- M.Tech in Defence Technology (Communication Systems and Sensors)
- M.Tech in Defence Technology (Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security)
- M.Tech in Defence Technology (Directed Energy Technology)

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**Department of Aviation, Logistics & Tourism Management**
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- MBA (Logistics and Supply Chain Management)
- MBA Tourism and Travel Management

### School of Skill Sciences & Entrepreneurship

**Department of Retail Management**
- MBA Retail Management and Digital Marketing

**Department of Media**
- MBA in Media Management

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- MA in Economics
- MA in Political Science
- MA in Sociology
- MA Politics and International Relations
- M.A. in Public Policy
- M.Sc. Cognitive Sciences, Learning and Technology
- Master of Social Work
- Post Graduate Diploma in Counselling Psychology

### School of Languages

**Department of Languages**
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- MA in English
- MA in French

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**Department of Forensic Sciences**
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- M.Sc. Forensic Science with specialization in Questioned Documents and Fingerprints
- M.Sc. Forensic Science with specialization in Forensic Biology and Serology
- M.Sc. Forensic Science with specialization in Forensic Toxicology and Explosives
- M.Sc. Forensic Science with specialization in Cyber and Multimedia Forensics
- M.Sc. Forensic Science with specialization in Forensic Physics and Ballistics
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Questioned Documents and Fingerprints
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Crime Scene Management
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Forensic Photography
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Forensic Toxicology and Explosives
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Forensic Biology and Serology
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Forensic Ballistics
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Multimedia Forensics
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Cyber and Digital Forensics

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**Department of Chemistry & Sustainability**
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- M.Sc. in Sustainability
- M.Sc. in Green Hydrogen

**Department of Mathematics & Statistics**
- M.Sc. in Mathematics

### School of Biosciences and Technology

**Department of Biotechnology & Bioengineering**
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- M.Tech Biomedical Engineering
- M.Tech in Bioinformatics

**Department of Life Sciences**
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- M.Sc in Biological Science
- M.Sc in Microbiology
- M.Sc in Biochemistry
- M.Sc in Biomedical Science
- M.Sc in Zoology
- M.Sc. Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

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- M.Sc Food Science And Technology

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- Master of Pharmacy (Pharmaceutics) (Approved by Pharmacy Council of India)
- Master of Pharmacy (Pharmacology) (Approved by Pharmacy Council of India)
- Master of Pharmacy (Regulatory Affairs) (Approved by Pharmacy Council of India)
- Master of Pharmacy (Pharmaceutical Analysis) (Approved by Pharmacy Council of India)
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- Master of Physiotherapy in Musculoskeletal Sciences
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**Department of Finance & Commerce**
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- Master of Finance and Control
- MBA in Financial Management

### School of Hospitality

**Department of Hospitality**
- Masters in Hospitality Management
- Masters in Culinary Management & Food Entrepreneurship
- MBA Hospitality and Service Management

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**Department of Pharmacy**
- Diploma in pharmacy (D.Pharm) (Approved by Pharmacy Council of India)

### School of Allied Health Sciences

- Diploma in Advanced Music Therapy

### University Polytechnic

**Department of Galgotias Polytechnic**
- Diploma in Computer Science and Engineering
- Diploma in Computer Science and Engineering (Network Essentials)
- Diploma in Computer Science and Engineering (Web Designing)
- Diploma in Computer Science and Engineering (Cloud Computing and IT Infrastructure)
- Diploma in Computer Science and Engineering (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning)
- Diploma in Computer Science and Engineering (Data Analytics)
- Diploma in Electrical Engineering
- Diploma in Electrical Engineering (Electric Vehicle)
- Diploma in Electrical Engineering (Renewable Energy)
- Diploma in Electronics and Communication Engineering
- Diploma in Mechanical Engineering
- Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (Electric Vehicle)
- Diploma in IC Manufacturing
- Diploma in Civil Engineering

## Certificate Programs

### School of Languages

**Department of Languages**
- Certificate in Japanese
- Certificate in French

### School of Forensic Sciences

**Department of Forensic Sciences**
- Certificate course in Social Media Crimes
- Certificate course in Advanced crime scene management
- Certificate course in Forensic photography
- Certificate course in Graphology and personality profiling

### School of Media & Communication Studies

**Department of Mass Communication**
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- Certificate Course in Data Journalism (In association with India Today Media Institute)
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# Transport dept crackdown in city nets Rs 71.73 cr in taxes, fines

## Cars, goods vehicles, tourist buses seized in year-long drive

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Transport Department seized 1,618 vehicles and collected Rs 71.73 crore in taxes and fines as part of a year-long crackdown on Motor Vehicles Act violations across Bengaluru's 12 RTOs in 2025-26, data shows.

Non-transport vehicles — mainly personal cars registered outside Karnataka — along with goods vehicles, meter taxis, auto-rickshaws and All India Tourist Permit (AITP) vehicles accounted for 1,396, or 80% of the seizures, according to the data.

The bulk of the 479 personal cars seized were registered outside Karnataka, pointing to a rise in non-state vehicles on Bengaluru's roads.

"Most of these vehicles had evaded lifetime tax in Karnataka," Shobha AM, Joint Commissioner of Transport (Bengaluru Urban), told *DH*.

Owners of non-state vehicles are required to pay lifetime tax if the vehicle is kept for use in Karnataka for more than 12 months. Thereafter, they must obtain No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from their home state and transfer vehicle documents within 14 days, she added.

While the department believes many non-state vehicles are not transferred for years, it lacks a "robust" mechanism to track them. It maintains a checkpost at Attibele on the border with Tamil Nadu, but non-state vehicles can still enter through other routes and remain undetected for years.

Besides tax, non-state vehicles are also liable to pay a fine of 1% per month based on their cost, Shobha said.

Non-transport vehicles are also checked for other violations such as expired insurance and fitness certificates, and carrying excess luggage.

While goods vehicles were checked the most (1.27 lakh), just a tiny fraction (377) was found violating permits, exceeding the Registered Laden Weight (RLW), exceeding noise limits, plying with expired fitness certificates and defaulting on tax.

M P Omareshwari, Additional Commissioner of Transport (Enforcement, South), said goods vehicles were checked mainly for tax, fitness certificate and overloading violations. Passenger vehicles were checked for all violations, including fitness certificates, tax and insurance, she added.

Fitness certificate violations attract a fine of Rs 3,000 for the first offence, depending on vehicle category (MGV, LGV or HGV). Exceeding the RLW carries a fine of Rs 5,000 for the first offence and Rs 10,000 for the second.

Permit violations attract a fine of Rs 5,000 for the first offence and Rs 10,000 for the second.

Auto-rickshaws were mainly checked for permit violations. AITP vehicles were checked for permit violations, carrying commercial luggage and not carrying passenger manifests.

Transport vehicles are also required to pay tax per passenger every three months, though the state government recently reduced the tax burden.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**Vehicles checked**
3,01,231

| | |
|---|---|
| Goods vehicles | 1,27,521 |
| Non-transport vehicles | 22,889 |
| Autos | 36,646 |
| Meter taxis | 28,652 |
| AITPs | 19,040 |
| Contract carriage vehicles | 10,943 |
| Maxicabs | 13,228 |
| Educational institution buses | 12,217 |
| Others | 30,095 |

**Fine collected** Rs 20.59 cr

**Tax collected** Rs 51.13 cr

**Vehicles seized** 1,618

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Non-transport vehicles | 479 | Autos | 190 |
| Goods vehicles | 377 | AITPs | 112 |
| Meter taxis | 238 | others | 222 |

# Repair work on Peenya flyover triggers major traffic snarls

## Office-goers face long delays

BENGALURU, DHNS

Traffic on Tumakuru Road was thrown out of gear on Tuesday after the Dr Shivakumara Swamiji Flyover, better known as the Peenya elevated corridor, was shut for repair work, leaving commuters stranded in long queues on surrounding roads.

The closure, in place from 5 am to 11 am for four days, was taken up to repair 1,422 cables on the flyover and carry out load testing as part of a Rs 32-crore restoration exercise. With the elevated stretch shut, vehicles moved sluggishly through Peenya, Jalahalli, SRS Junction and surrounding junctions, pushing up travel time.

Normally, motorists say they can cross the stretch in 15 to 20 minutes. On Tuesday, however, several commuters reported delays of more than an hour as traffic spilled onto the lower roads connecting Goraguntepalya and the Parle-G factory belt. "Instead of closing it during peak morning hours, they could have taken up the work after 11 am. Every time the flyover is shut, the same problem repeats," a commuter said. Another motorist said the closure made a short 5-km trip feel like an exhausting hour-long ordeal.

The flyover, which carries traffic across multiple districts and is a crucial route for vehicles moving in and out of north Bengaluru, has faced repeated maintenance-related shutdowns in recent months. Commuters expressed frustration over the lack of a permanent solution, saying frequent closures were badly affecting office-goers and emergency travel alike.

Authorities are expected to complete the repair and testing work over the four-day period.

**Slow-moving traffic on Tumakuru Road.** DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

# Govt restores original IRR plan with minor changes

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

With the state government reviving the long-pending Intermediate Ring Road (IRR) project around Bengaluru, the Urban Development Department (UDD) has finalised the road alignment largely in line with the original 2007 plan, while introducing limited changes in the Nelamangala and Anekal-Hoskote stretches.

The move also means fresh development activity along the revised alignment, including approvals for new building plans, will not be allowed by different planning authorities.

Officials said the new alignment broadly follows the IRR proposal first cleared by the Bangalore Metropolitan Region Development Authority in October 2006, with a preliminary notification issued in January 2007. The project envisages a 210-km orbital corridor connecting key growth centres including Tattekere, Harohalli, Bidadi, Tavarekere, Nelamangala, Devanahalli, Hoskote, Dommasandra and Anekal.

While most of the original alignment has been retained, officials confirmed that the Anekal-Hoskote section earlier proposed under the IRR has been dropped and instead aligned with the Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) plan. Similarly, minor modifications have been introduced in the Nelamangala segment, as the stretch has already witnessed development activity.

The revival follows a series of legal and administrative developments. In August 2022, the Karnataka High Court permitted the government to technically drop the IRR project after authorities submitted that the stretch already had several roads. Subsequently, in January 2023, the government treated roads developed by the Public Works Department, Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited, district roads and National Highways as the IRR, dropping the 2007 plan. A revised notification was issued in March 2023.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar decided to revive the project, stating that the region is seeing rapid development activity but lacks an adequate road network. Officials also noted that the existing road width ranged from 9 metres to 30 metres, while the original IRR design envisaged a uniform 90-metre-wide corridor.

As a result, the government has opted to proceed on the basis of the 2006 preliminary notification and revive the project. Officials said the government would take up the project in phases of 20 km, with the aim of gradually building the entire road. "We are now preparing a feasibility study," an officer said.

# City corporations swing into action as pre-monsoon rain picks up

BENGALURU, DHNS

As pre-monsoon rain picks up in the city, civic officials have swung into action. On Tuesday, commissioners of the Bengaluru West City Corporation (BWCC), Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC), and Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) instructed officials to take preventive measures.

BWCC Commissioner Rajendra KV, who held a meeting on Tuesday, directed officials to carry out desilting of roadside and shoulder drains along major roads, including arterial, sub-arterial and high-density corridors. He also asked them to maintain cleanliness to ensure the smooth flow of water through gratings.

"Identify low-lying areas where water stagnates and areas prone to damage, and maintain continuous contact with local residents," he said.

BNCC Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar, who visited various areas under his jurisdiction, emphasised the need for coordination among all departments and directed officials to complete all pre-monsoon preparedness works at the earliest.

Noting severe waterlogging and traffic congestion on Puttenahalli Lake Road, he directed officials to strengthen the drainage system and ensure continuous monitoring to prevent a recurrence. Similar instructions were issued to prevent waterlogging near Kogilu Circle, Motherhood Hospital in Byatarayanapura, and several other locations in north Bengaluru.

BECC Commissioner D S Ramesh, who held a review meeting, said the primary objective was to review the progress of ongoing stormwater drain development and modernisation works, identify drain boundaries, clear encroachments, and implement pre-monsoon preparedness measures in a coordinated manner.

He said the overall responsibility for the execution, maintenance and development of stormwater drain works under World Bank funding lies with the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) officials handling the projects. "The PIU has been entrusted with full responsibility to coordinate with the Revenue Department for demarcation of drain boundaries and removal of encroachments, ensuring smooth execution of development works. In view of the upcoming monsoon, all precautionary measures, emergency works and priority tasks must be taken up immediately by the PIU without delay," he said.

He said completing stormwater drain works with speed and quality is critical to preventing waterlogging during the monsoon season.

## Lokayukta names top officials in KR Circle underpass case

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Karnataka Lokayukta has named the Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development Department; the Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority; and the Commissioner of the Bengaluru Central City Corporation as respondents in the suo motu case taken up after flooding at the KR Circle underpass killed a Hyderabad-based techie in 2023.

The underpass again witnessed flooding after heavy rain on April 29, and Lokayukta B S Patil visited the spot on April 30.

In the earlier case, based on reports submitted by the IGP (Lokayukta) and engineers, Lokayukta officials had sought a response from the then Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials. However, engineers from the BBMP's stormwater drain department had blamed engineers from the road infrastructure division, and vice versa.

Considering that each division blamed the other and the underpass continued to witness flooding, the Lokayukta, on April 30, named senior officials as respondents and sought a response from them by May 20.

## MDMA, hydro ganja worth Rs 20 cr seized

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Police have arrested six drug peddlers, including two men from Kerala, and seized narcotics — MDMA and hydro ganja — worth Rs 20.10 crore in separate operations in the Yeshwantpur and Nandini Layout police limits.

In the Yeshwantpur police station limits, four accused — Syed Suhail, 27, Mohammed Sameer, 23, Sadiq Pasha, 21, and Mohammed Azharul Haq, 33 — were arrested, and police seized 8 kg of MDMA valued at Rs 16.1 crore, Rs 1.62 lakh in cash, a car used for transporting the drugs, and four mobile phones. The accused allegedly sourced the narcotics by contacting a Nigeria-based supplier online. Suhail, the prime accused, is a rowdy-sheeter.

In the Nandini Layout police limits, two interstate accused — Saugesh, 27, and Altaf, 25 — were arrested and 5.7 kg of hydro ganja was seized. The duo had procured the contraband from abroad and were attempting to sell it in the city. The accused were engaged in small-time jobs in Kerala.

## Victoria panel rules out doctor negligence in patient's death

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** An inquiry committee set up by Victoria Hospital has ruled out doctor negligence in the death of a 45-year-old man at the medical facility earlier this year.

The patient was admitted on February 19 after being diagnosed with Fournier's gangrene and uncontrolled diabetes mellitus. After being discharged on March 3, he died at home on March 15.

His family alleged that he had been discharged against his will and that his wound had been left unstitched.

Hospital authorities formed a committee comprising senior professors and heads of departments to probe the allegations.

The committee found that the patient had received "timely and appropriate" treatment at the hospital.

The committee stated that the allegation that the patient was discharged against his will was not supported by any records. The allegation of negligence in leaving the wound unstitched was also deemed "false", as definitive closure of the kind of wound the patient had is delayed in such cases until the wound becomes healthy and eligible for plastic surgery intervention, it added.

The hospital claimed that the family was also provided with a junior doctor's phone number to call in case of emergencies. Institutional records also confirmed that the patient's family stayed at Vishranthi Dhama, located within the hospital premises, after his discharge, contrary to allegations that they had stayed on the hospital footpath.

The patient eventually died at home on March 15, which was certified by an independent physician, who noted that he died of cardiac arrest and not due to severe blood loss or hypovolemia, as alleged.

The inquiry report concluded that there was no connection between the patient's death and his treatment at Victoria Hospital.

## Workshop on pulses held at GKVK

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** More than 250 pulse scientists from across the country took part in a three-day national annual workshop on pulses, organised by the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, and the ICAR at GKVK from May 5 to 7. The workshop was chaired by ICAR Secretary and Director General M L Jat, who called for higher pulse production to ensure nutritional security and support farmers' livelihoods. UAS-B Vice-Chancellor S V Suresha said higher income from pulses could attract more farmers and stressed the need for speed breeding in pulse research.

Scientists said India remains the world's largest producer and consumer of pulses, but still depends on imports for around 15% of domestic demand. They said boosting output despite climate change remains a key challenge.

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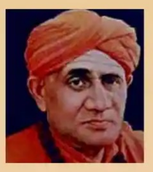
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# When B'luru rallied for its beloved spaces

**City folk have consistently showed up to help bookstores, eateries, and performance venues staring at a crisis**

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

When rain and hail damaged over 4,000 books at The Bookworm on Church Street last week, Bengaluru's reading community stepped in to support the much-loved independent bookstore. They sorted through soggy piles, laid damp volumes out in the sun, and cleaned the space. Some bought soiled copies, some explored raising funds.

Similar moments of solidarity played out when Premier Bookshop, a Church Street landmark run by T S Shanbhag since 1971, wound up in 2009, and when Nagasri Book House, a cosy neighbourhood store in Jayanagar, shut in 2024 after 48 years. Not just bookstores, Bengalureans have also rallied around their favourite eateries and performance spaces. A throwback.

## 'Save Airlines' petition

In 2014, "administrative issues" forced Airlines Hotel, Bengaluru's first drive-in restaurant on Lavelle Road, to suspend operations for four months. The 1968 establishment is popular for its coffee, idli, dosa, and chana bhatura, and its banyan-shaded setting.

Proprietor Diwakar Rao recalls: "I don't use Facebook, but my wife and friends told me people had started a 'Save Airlines' petition." The campaign reportedly drew 4,000 signatures. Offline too, regulars dropped by daily to check if the restaurant had reopened. "One man said he gets a headache if he doesn't visit. Another said he just likes standing inside, even without ordering," he reminisces.

When the issue was resolved on July 25 at 5 pm, Rao says they were back in service within 15 minutes, and the place quickly filled up. He says while public opinion cannot sway authorities, it offered "moral support and confidence at a time of pressure, and created a positive perception that the place must continue."

## From customers to partners

Started in 1977, Dolphins Bar and Kitchen was among the first outside the CBD to serve beer on tap, and was known for its affordable coastal Karnataka fare. The Cox Town outlet was facing closure in 2023, but got a second life due to its customers, Neil Quadras and Amit Dev.

Since Lahe Lahe's closure in 2024, its patrons have been helping run its popular event, Music Jam. These sessions are now held at Dhurii around Indiranagar.

Quadras recalls, "I had ordered food over the Independence Day weekend. The delivery person came and said, 'This is the last order'." Shocked, Quadras called his college friend Dev, who works in the F&B industry, to see if they could save their favourite hangout.

Owner Ananda Shetty gave them 10 days to sort out licences. It was a "crazy" sprint, but within 15 days, they secured the necessary assurances. Shetty was pleased and came on board as a partner.

"When old haunts like Guzzlers shut, people said, 'If only we had known earlier, we could have done something.' So I wanted to try," says Quadras, who runs a video production studio. He put buying a house on hold and invested in this instead. The duo retained the old Cantonment vibe, but brought down a few walls to make the space brighter. "It had begun to feel dingy," Quadras says.

Seeing Dolphins' success, other bars with 30-40 years of history, including The Denny's Pub in J P Nagar and Teja Bar and Restaurant on New BEL Road, approached the duo for revival, which they successfully took up.

## Singing non-stop

Long before 'sing-alongs' became a staple of the city's social calendar, Lahe Lahe, an arts and community space in Indiranagar, had been hosting them every Wednesday since 2016. After it shut abruptly in 2024, regulars stepped in to keep its 'Music Jam' event going. Founder Mansee Shah recalls, "Soumyadeep Dasgupta rented the clubhouse in his apartment complex and hosted the jam with others. He returned the ticket proceeds to support Lahe Lahe. It was quite an emotional moment."

Today, Lahe Lahe operates in a decentralised format as the Lahe Lahe Caravan, hosting events across venues. The 'Music Jam' has moved across five spaces and is currently held at Dhurii around Indiranagar. It has 25-30 regulars, and participants like Plabon Roy handle aspects like promotion and facilitation.

Mansee says the community is giving back because of the value it has brought to their lives. "Many found close friends. At least four couples met here and went on to get married. Some have even formed or joined bands," she says.

## Rs 20 lakh in a week

Medai, a small performance venue in Koramangala known for hosting the Margazhi classical arts festival, ran into trouble this January. The landlord revised the rent sharply, allegedly in violation of their agreement, says its director of cultural events, Preeti Banerjee.

As the team scrambled, artistes who had performed at Medai began sharing leads for alternative spaces. Preeti soon found one within the Good Shepherd Auditorium campus on Museum Road. But midway through the interior work, funds ran out. "I posted a crowdfunding link on Instagram and wrote that if we don't raise funds in time, Medai might shut," she recalls.

Word spread across dance, music and theatre circles, and donations, even business investments, started pouring in. The team raised close to Rs 20 lakh in a week and soon staged their first show, 'The Kite Runner', at the new venue. Medai will turn three this July.

'In the valley of memories' by artist Mohit Mahato.

# Cyanotype finding steady revival in city

ANANYA KOPPA
TEAM METROLIFE

Cyanotype printing, an early photographic process, is gradually finding its place within today's fast-paced digital culture. Known for its deep Prussian blue tones, this 19th-century technique is being revisited by artists in Bengaluru as a more tactile and reflective way of making images.

For many practitioners, returning to cyanotype also means returning to analogue roots. Photographer Jude Gabriel, who began working with the medium in 2024, describes it as a move toward something more personal. "I needed to go back to my roots... working with an analogue medium where the process is more hands-on," he says.

Unlike digital workflows, cyanotype printing depends on sunlight, manual preparation, and a degree of unpredictability, ensuring that no two prints are identical.

The process itself is relatively straightforward. A mixture of light-sensitive chemicals is applied to surfaces such as paper, fabric, or wood. Objects or photographic negatives are then placed on the coated surface and exposed to sunlight. Once washed, the exposed areas develop into shades of blue, producing images that range from delicate botanical impressions to layered compositions.

Artists are drawn to cyanotype for varied reasons. For Indu Antony, the medium is closely tied to memory and space. Her project, 'Archive of Memories', uses cyanotype as a metaphorical "blueprint" to document lived spaces and personal histories. Similarly, Sonia Jose explores the body and its relationship to space, creating life-sized works that map presence and perception.

Despite its accessibility, the practice comes with challenges. Weather plays a crucial role, as sunlight directly influences the outcome. "If you are relying entirely on the sun, it becomes difficult during rainy days," says Indu. Others point to the need for technical familiarity, especially when working with negatives and chemical processes.

The city has seen a steady rise in interest in alternative photography practices. Studios such as Pagal Canvas, Kanike Studio, and Praxis Techne regularly host workshops, making the medium accessible to beginners and hobbyists. Public programmes at spaces like the Bangalore International Centre and Venkatappa Art Gallery have further expanded their visibility. An upcoming show at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, titled 'Confluence 2026', will showcase cyanotypes alongside other alternative printmaking processes. Informal artist groups also gather at Cubbon Park to experiment collectively.

Artists note that this revival reflects a broader desire to slow down. Cyanotype demands patience, attention, and direct engagement with materials. In contrast to the speed and volume of digital photography, it offers a process grounded in time and touch.

# Are EV charging stations equipped for the heat?

**Soaring summer temperatures expose gaps in safety, infrastructure readiness, and maintenance across apartments**

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

A charging station at the Bescom office at K R Circle. DH FILE PHOTO

With Bengaluru's temperatures hovering between 35 and 37 degrees Celsius in the past few weeks, concerns around electric vehicle (EV) safety sharpened after a two-wheeler caught fire while charging in South Bengaluru.

The incident, triggered by overheating, raises questions about whether existing safeguards and infrastructure are keeping pace with rising EV adoption.

Smart EV chargers are designed to cut off power automatically if a vehicle overheats. In this case, that mechanism failed. A resident had plugged in his two-wheeler and left it unattended; the charger overheated, ignited, and the fire spread to two nearby vehicles. A visitor spotted the blaze, alerted security, and residents managed to contain it using fire extinguishers.

## What the guidelines say

According to Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (Bescom), safety is non-negotiable when installing EV charging points, particularly in apartment complexes. Equipment must meet BIS standards, with proper earthing and insulated systems to reduce fire risks.

Public and shared chargers require inspection and approval from electrical authorities before commissioning.

The guidelines on its website (bescom.karnataka.gov.in) also stress adequate electrical provisioning to handle multiple chargers simultaneously, minimising overheating and system stress. Liability for damages caused by faulty equipment, including fires, rests squarely with the operator.

## Basements: allowed, but conditional

EV chargers are not prohibited in basements, but they come with caveats. Charging stations must be installed in accessible areas with sufficient space and ventilation. Each charging point requires one Equivalent Car Space (ECS), roughly 2.5m by 5m. A standard car occupies one ECS, while a two-wheeler takes up 0.25 ECS. "EV charging stations can be installed in basements if a fire No Objection Certificate (NOC) is obtained and safety regulations are followed. However, any incidents will make the operator accountable," said B Aravinda Shetty, Public Relations Officer at Bescom.

An industry expert who works with a multinational engineering company cautions that basements, especially in older buildings, may not be equipped to handle the electrical and thermal loads. EV battery fires are particularly difficult to control, as they can sustain combustion by generating their own oxygen. This makes ventilation and specialised containment systems critical, he adds.

## Infrastructure under strain?

As EV adoption grows, the pressure on the charging infrastructure is evident. Veer Karan Goyal, co-founder of Zenergize, a manufacturer of EV chargers, points to the continuous electrical load these systems endure. "Charging stations face high stress and are vulnerable to failures from temperature and voltage fluctuations. Designing for system-level fault resilience is key in reducing thermal stress," he said, adding that reliability is essential for sustaining user trust.

Sudhanva Shetty, co-founder of Rebolt, a EV-charging network, stressed on paying attention to wiring, site selection, fire suppression, and surge protection.

## Residents flag everyday challenges

For users, the problems are often more mundane than dramatic fires, but no less disruptive. Muhammad Rashaad, a college student in Hegde Nagar, describes erratic charging behaviour. "The station auto shuts off without intimation and sends random notifications at odd hours," he said. In one instance, his scooter went into deep discharge due to interrupted charging, forcing a battery replacement. Installing a private charger is not straightforward due to NOC and fire regulations, leaving residents dependent on vendors. He currently pays Rs 14 per unit.

In J P Nagar, Reshma Khan says compliance is not the issue; access is. "We have at least 35 EV owners and only three charging stations," she said. Anand, part of the residents' welfare association (RWA)at a gated community in J P Nagar, notes that while chargers have been in place for four years, maintenance and minor technical faults persist.

In contrast, residents of Koramangala 1st block, have taken a decentralised approach. "Residents charge at their own parking spaces with private connections. We've had no accidents so far," said RWA president Padmashree Balaram.

## POPCORN

### Appadi podu...

Vijay has delivered a blockbuster performance in the Tamil Nadu elections, and it looks like he will be the chief minister. No one knows what he stands for, ideologically speaking, and that is perhaps the voters telling the world, "Yeah, big deal. Don't we know how your ideologies change the moment you sniff power!" And all those who blocked his film 'Jana Nayagan' are now singing his praises. The reason, nanbargale*, is that the stand-off is over, and the Jana Nayagan holds the gun. *friends

## EVENTS

**Remembering Tagore**
'Nationalism and Culture', a celebration of Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary, will have talks by Tagore scholars, alongside performances of Rabindra sangeet in the Sahajiya tradition at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, on May 7, 6.30 pm. Entry free. RSVP at bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

**Solo show**
TheatreNisha Chennai presents 'Knockers', a one-person performance that looks at life after mastectomy, at Courtyard Koota, Kengeri, on May 9, 6.30 pm. For ages 16 and above. Tickets online.

**Mask series**
National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru, and South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur, will host a Mask Making and Folk Performance Series at the gallery's premises between May 8 and 10, 11.30 am to 7 pm. Entry free. Check @ngma_bengaluru at Instagram.

# Bharatanatyam-jazz retelling of Shakuntala

**The contemporary pop opera will make its India debut in Bengaluru on May 7**

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

The 38-member cast includes dancers, singers and actors.

The play 'Odyssey of Love', which premieres in the city this weekend, is a modern retelling of the ancient tale of Shakuntala. The contemporary pop opera is directed by Kevin Oliver and presented in association with the Kempegowda International Airport Foundation (KIAF).

The tragic love story of commoner Shakuntala and king Dushyanta, from the 'Mahabharata', has been retold in numerous ways. Sanskrit poet Kalidasa's 4th-century play 'Abhijnanashakuntalam' was perhaps the first. The popularity of that text, in turn, has captured the imagination of creative minds across centuries.

Among the earliest of these in modern recollection is the 1858 ballet 'Sacountala' by French composer Ernest Reyer. Celebrated Indian painter Raja Ravi Varma, too, created multiple versions of Shakuntala in his works.

In Oliver's version, the narrative remains the same, but the costumes and music have been calibrated to suit modern palates and reflect the director's obsession with the dramatic goth aesthetic of filmmaker Tim Burton and late fashion designer Alexander McQueen. Bharatanatyam dancers move to a blend of rock, jazz and pop.

"Almost every element of the play — the music, lyrics, costumes and dialogues — was developed from scratch by me," Oliver shares. Some of the costumes were created in collaboration with designer Rocky S.

The first song of the play, written by Oliver in 10 minutes, is a duet between Shakuntala and Dushyanta and has a 'haunting melody'. Another composition, titled 'Keep the silence', is a jazz number with all-woman vocals. "It has echoes of the musical 'Chicago'," he notes. 'Ishq' is the final song of the show. "It's my nod to Bollywood." LED screens form the backdrop and even the floor of the production, with imagery resembling 'comic book content and Japanese anime'.

The proceeds from the sale of tickets will go towards KIAF's flagship programme, 'Namma Shikshana', which works with government schools.

*May 7 (3.30 pm and 7.30 pm), May 8 & 9 (3.30 pm, 6 pm and 8.30 pm), at Good Shepherd Auditorium, Museum Road. Tickets online.*

# Researcher duo builds archive of cities in fiction

**A classroom project at IIHS has grown to map nearly 700 books rooted in urban and regional landscapes across South Asia**

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Divya Ravindranath

Apoorva Saini

A digital archival project called 'Cities in Fiction', started about three years ago by Bengaluru-based researchers Divya Ravindranath and Apoorva Saini, documents books rooted in cities, towns and regions across India and other parts of South Asia.

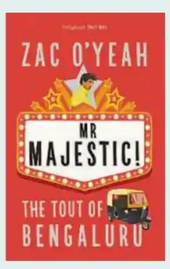
What began as a classroom project at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements in 2023 has since evolved into an independent public archive featuring around 700 books.

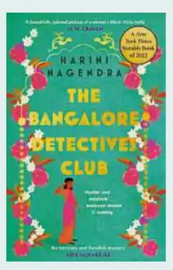
"We started with the idea of seeing if fiction can be used as a method to understand cities. It can become a way of archiving our cities," says Divya, senior researcher at IIHS. For writer, editor and translator, Apoorva, the archive also grew from a dissatisfaction with literature classrooms.

"We were mostly reading about faraway worlds. There was very little contemporary Indian writing in the English literature curriculum," she says. This concern spurred the duo to start the project, and the website was launched soon after.

## What it covers

Initially, the project was no more than a spreadsheet built from the founders' personal reading lists and favourite books set in different places. Circulated among a few friends, it drew unexpected interest online. Today, it carries entries spanning major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Bengaluru, alongside smaller towns and regions such as Mysuru, Mudigere, Hampi, Ballari and Varanasi. Entries on places in Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Tibet and China can also be found. "Many of these recommendations have been crowd-sourced," Divya adds.




While places like Mudigere, Hampi and Mysuru have only a handful of titles listed, Bengaluru alone has 28, including 'Murder Under a Red Moon', 'The Bangalore Detectives Club', 'Bangalore Blues', 'Mr Majestic: The Tout of Bengaluru' and 'Teru, Itara Kathalu'.

Unlike a conventional book list, "the website is designed as a literary archive and research tool", with each entry carrying publication details, translators where applicable, and the themes it engages with. "This makes the archive useful for both general readers and scholars looking for specific genres," says Divya.

The platform includes a map page that plots the book geographically. The founders are now working to expand the archive's regional literature component, including writing in Kannada.

*Visit citiesinfiction.com*

Govt. of Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand 25 Silver Jubilee Year

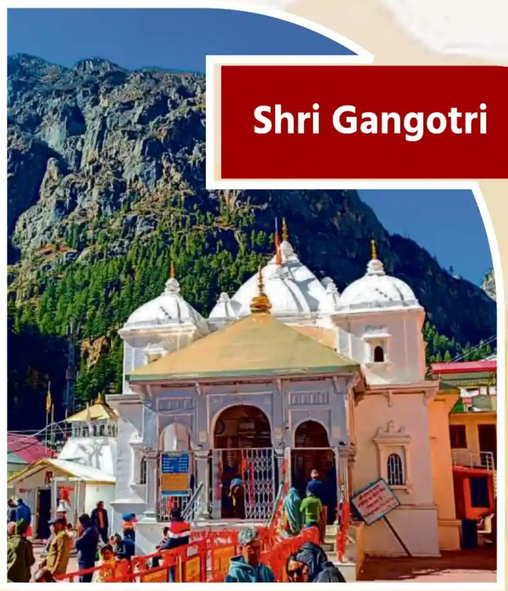
GAURAV, VIKAS AUR SANKALP KA PARV

Devbhoomi Uttarakhand

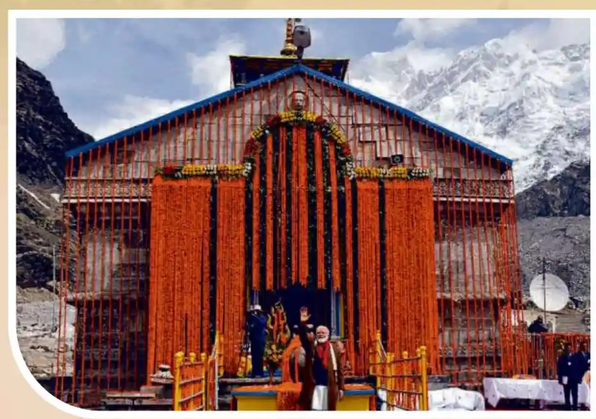
VIKAS BHI, VIRASAT BHI

# Chardham Yatra

Shri Yamunotri



Shri Gangotri



Shri Kedarnath

Shri Badrinath

## A WARM WELCOME TO ALL DEVOTEES

### My dear Countrymen,

The sacred Chardham Yatra has commenced in the holy land of Devbhoomi Uttarakhand. This divine pilgrimage to the four shrines, including the darshan of Baba Kedar, is a magnificent celebration of India's eternal (Sanatan) cultural consciousness. Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya gave a new direction to Indian culture through his pilgrimages to Badrinath and Kedarnath. Similarly, Jagadguru Ramanujacharya and Jagadguru Madhvacharya also visited Badrinath to enrich their spiritual philosophies.

Even today, these four shrines nestled in the lap of the Himalayas remain divine centers of our eternal faith and belief. Every year, people belonging to diverse languages, traditions, and cultures come here, further strengthening the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'. This year's Yatra is an extension of that very tradition.

Our scriptures state:

**अग्निष्टोमादिभिर्यज्ञैरिष्ट्वा विपुलदक्षिणैः।**
**न तत्फलमवाप्नोति तीर्थाभिगमनेन यत्॥**

Meaning: The immense merit (Punya) earn through grand Yagyas (sacrificial rituals) and charity is profound. However, the merit obtained through a pilgrimage (Tirtha Yatra) is even greater than that gained through those rituals.

In the resolve for a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India), the role of a 'Viksit Uttarakhand' is extremely vital. A few years ago, at the gateway of Baba Kedar, I had said that this decade would be the 'Decade of Uttarakhand.' Today, the progress of Uttarakhand is turning that belief into reality. Uttarakhand is setting new benchmarks in all three sectors: tourism, spirituality, and economic growth.

The great ritual of development (Vikas ka Mahayagya) that has been underway in Uttarakhand for the past few years has made the Chardham Yatra more accessible, safer, and divine than ever before. This is providing great convenience to the visiting devotees, saints, and tourists. In all these efforts, every care is being taken to preserve the natural beauty of Uttarakhand.

I would also urge every guest visiting Uttarakhand to truly enjoy this new experience. During your journey, I encourage all travellers to observe a "Digital Fast" and strive to live within the natural beauty of Uttarakhand. This will provide you with a unique sense of satisfaction.

Historically, we have always traveled from our homes to Devbhoomi for the Chardham Yatra with a specific resolve. In this spirit, I wish to urge you to take Five Resolves (Panch Sankalp):

**First Resolve – Cleanliness is Paramount:** Maintain cleanliness within and around the shrines. Contribute your part to keeping the rivers clean. Take a pledge for a journey free of single-use plastic and uphold the dignity of this sacred land.

**Second Resolve – Sensitivity towards Nature and Environment:** Be sensitive toward this divine Himalayan land. While maintaining the balance of nature, contribute to environmental conservation through initiatives like 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (A Tree in Mother's Name).

**Third Resolve – Emphasis on Service, Cooperation, and Unity:** Since ancient times, our pilgrimages have been a medium for universal service and social harmony. Even today, people serve pilgrims with this same spirit. I urge every pilgrim visiting the Chardham to perform at least one act of service every day of their journey. Help your fellow travellers and connect with people coming from different parts of the country. By participating in their traditions, strengthen the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' through this pilgrimage.

**Fourth Resolve – Promoting 'Vocal for Local':** From the time you leave your home until you return, ensure that you spend at least five percent of your total travel budget on purchasing local products. Even if a local item is not immediately needed in this season, try to buy it for future use.

**Fifth Resolve – Adherence to Discipline, Safety, and Decorum:** Follow the rules of the journey and traffic instructions. As a responsible and alert citizen, make this pilgrimage safe and accessible. Let us ensure that our journey does not cause any inconvenience to the people involved in the organisation and management of this Yatra.

In recent years, a large number of creators and influencers have started visiting the Chardham. I urge all of you to make an effort to share the local stories of Uttarakhand and its small, unique traditions with the masses.

May the blessings of Baba Kedar and all the four shrines infuse your life with new energy, new inspiration, and new resolutions. This is my wish for you.

My heartiest best wishes to all of you for a successful, safe, divine, and soulful journey.

Yours

Narendra Modi

## SPIRITUAL AND NATURAL ATTRACTIONS NEAR THE CHAR DHAM ROUTE

### Near Yamunotri

Janki Chatti & Hanuman Chatti, Kharsali Village, Saptarishi Kund, Lakhamandal, Kedarkantha Trek, Rana Chatti.

### Near Kedarnath

Bhairavnath Temple, Vasuki Tal, Gaurikund, Triyuginarayan Temple, Chopta - Tungnath - Chandra Shila, Deoria Tal.

### Near Gangotri

Gaumukh Trek, Bhojbasa & Tapovan, Surya Kund & Gauri Kund, Harsil Valley, Mukhimath (Mukhba), Dayara Bugyal Trek, Gartang Gali, Kashi Vishwanath Temple (Uttarkashi), Nachiketa Tal & Dodital.

### Near Badrinath

Mana Village, Vyas Gufa & Ganesh Gufa, Bhimsila, Auli, Valley of Flowers, Vasudhara Falls, Charanpaduka, Tapt Kund & Narad Kund, Jyotirmath (Joshimath), Satopanth Lake, Pandukeshwar, Adibadri Temple, Hemkund Sahib.

Triyuginarayan Temple

Valley of Flowers

Auli

Devprayag

Gartang Gali

Rishikesh

Harsil Valley

Kartik Swami Temple

"The Honourable Prime Minister has termed the third decade of the 21st century as the 'Decade of Uttarakhand.' In line with the Prime Minister's vision, we are working with an 'unwavering commitment' (Vikalp Rahit Sankalp) to make the state an ideal state in every field."

**Pushkar Singh Dhami**
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

## Important Information

**Mandatory Registration:** Registration is compulsory before commencing the Yatra.

**Verify Contact Details:** Please ensure you enter the correct mobile number during registration.

**Be Prepared for Weather:** Carry adequate woolen clothes, an umbrella, and a raincoat.

**Accurate Health Data:** Provide precise health information during the registration process.

**Senior Citizen Advisory:** Senior citizens are advised to undergo a medical check-up before starting the journey.

**Medication:** If you are on prescribed medication, carry a sufficient stock of your medicines.

**Acclimatisation:** Take frequent breaks at various transit points along the route to acclimatize to the high-altitude climate.

**Health First:** If you feel unwell, please do not proceed with the journey.

**Beware of Scams:** Avoid unauthorised individuals claiming to facilitate 'Darshan' at the shrines.

**Keep Tracks Clean:** Cooperate with us in keeping the pilgrimage routes clean; do not litter.

**Safe Driving:** Maintain controlled vehicle speed and park only in designated parking areas.

**No Plastic:** Strictly avoid the use of single-use plastic.



**Panch Kedar**
1. Kedarnath
2. Tungnath
3. Rudranath
4. Madhmaheshwar
5. Kalpeswar

**Panch Prayag**
1. Devprayag
2. Rudraprayag
3. Karnprayag
4. Nandprayag
5. Vishnuprayag

**Panch Badri**
1. Vishal Badri
2. Yogdarshan Badri
3. Bhavya Badri
4. Vradha Badri
5. Aadi Badri

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**During the Chardham Yatra, you can also visit and experience the divine Panch Kedar, Panch Prayag and Panch Badri. In the Panch Badri, Lord Vishnu is worshipped in various unique forms**

## ◆ IN THE CITY ◆

**GENERAL**

**Eshwaramma Day:** organised by Satya Sai Ashram; Ashram premises, Kadugodi, Whitefield; 8 am

**College Day:** Organised by Acharya Pathashala Commerce College; Srinivas Prabhu to take part; College campus, N R Colony; 10 am

**Community Health Camp:** '100 wellness on wheels'; organised by Narayana Health city and Volvo; Sri Sri Ravishankar Guruji, Dr Deviprasad Shetty, and Kamal Baali to participate; Agara Panchayat; 10 am

**Art Fest:** 'Namma Art-- Bengaluru National Art Festival'; Geetanjali Vikram Kirloskar, K G Raghavan and others to inaugurate; Karnataka Chitrakala Parishat, Kumarakrupa Road; 5 pm

## ◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

**FORECAST**

Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning & gusty winds

**TEMPERATURES**

| | |
|---|---|
| Maximum | 35.0°C |
| Minimum | 23.0°C |
| Rainfall (as of 8:30 am) | NIL |
| Humidity (as of 5:30 pm) | 96% |
| Sunset (May 6) | 6:35 pm |
| Sunrise (May 7) | 5:57 am |
| Moonrise | 9:47 pm |
| Moonset | 8:23 am |

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

# Left out of NITI Aayog plan, Bengaluru draws up its own $300 billion roadmap

BENGALURU , DHNS

Left out of NITI Aayog's national Growth Hub initiative, Bengaluru is now set to get a homegrown economic roadmap, with the Government of Karnataka (GoK) preparing to craft a new master plan for the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region to steer its next phase of growth. The ambitious plan aims to double Bengaluru's economic output by 2032.

On Tuesday, senior bureaucrats signed an agreement with the ISEG Foundation in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, with a target of preparing the blueprint within four months. The exercise is also expected to suggest solutions to the city's long-standing problems such as congestion, liveability and quality of life.

Spanning over 8,000 sq km across Bengaluru Urban, Rural and South districts, the metropolitan region is home to roughly 16 million people and has an estimated GDP of $149 billion. The plan is expected to boost Bengaluru's GDP to almost $300 billion.

It contributes over 43% of Karnataka's Gross State Domestic Product, the official document said.

Officials said the master plan will assess Bengaluru's economy against global peers and propose phased implementation, financing strategies and governance mechanisms. "This is not just a city plan. It will be a regional economic strategy," a senior official indicated, pointing to ambitions of positioning Bengaluru alongside global city-regions such as Tokyo, London and Singapore.

(ISEG Foundation)
In the august presence of
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister & Bengaluru City Development Minister
Shri D.K. Shivakumar

The Government of Karnataka signed an agreement with the ISEG Foundation to prepare a comprehensive economic master plan for the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region.

The report, which is expected to identify key growth drivers and investible interventions across sectors, will be integrated into the upcoming comprehensive master plan for Bengaluru, Shivakumar said. He added that Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh will head the high-level steering committee to shape the plan.

The push comes at a time when Bengaluru accounts for 42% of India's software exports, hosts over 875 Global Capability Centres, more than 30% of the national total, and is among the world's largest hubs for artificial intelligence talent. Its economy has been expanding at over 9% annually in real terms.

What is more, the approach draws from the NITI Aayog-led G-Hub initiative, which is preparing economic master plans for cities such as Mumbai, Visakhapatnam and Pune. Bengaluru has not been included in the first phase.

# Palliative care now available in KC General Hospital

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** A new five-bed palliative care facility has been established at KC General Hospital in Malleswaram to support patients beyond treatment and those suffering from severe pain and psychological distress.

The facility has been set up in collaboration with the Saranam India Foundation, an organisation specialising in palliative care and partnering with health systems in Karnataka to improve access to palliative and end-of-life care.

The unit is designed to help patients in advanced stages of life-threatening or severe illnesses such as cancer and kidney failure. It will also help them manage intense pain, breathing difficulties, neurological conditions and mental health distress.

The unit will offer services provided by a team of specialists, including an outpatient department, a day-care unit for pain management and individual counselling, a fully equipped inpatient facility, and a mobile unit.

The mobile unit will provide home-based care within a 5 km to 8 km radius of the hospital and training for caregivers.

Speaking at the event, Dinesh Gundu Rao, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, said there were plans to expand the facility to other hospitals in the city and urged the public to make use of the service. "We have a well-functioning unit at CV Raman General Hospital. We will next establish one at Jayanagar General Hospital and also across the state," Rao told *DH*.

Palliative care services for patients at the state-run cancer institute Kidwai are also functional.

# Rain, cloudy skies pull B'luru's mercury below 33°C

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Several parts of Bengaluru received light rain on Tuesday evening as a north-south trough covered Interior Karnataka, according to the India Meteorological Department.

For the first time in weeks, the day's maximum temperature in Bengaluru City fell below 33°C. In addition, a partly cloudy sky gave way to a generally cloudy sky across the city.

The trough runs from a cyclonic circulation over the central parts of south Madhya Pradesh to the Gulf of Mannar, extending up to 1.5 km above mean sea level, the IMD said.

A trough is an elongated area of low atmospheric pressure that causes air to converge, cool and condense. It usually brings clouds, strong winds and rain.

As a result of the trough, a partly cloudy sky gave way to a generally cloudy sky across the city. The Met Department has forecast more light to moderate rain/thundershowers with gusty winds reaching 30-40 kmph at isolated places in the city over the next 36 hours.

At 5.30 pm, Bengaluru City recorded a maximum temperature of 32.6°C, compared to the average of 34.3°C. This is the first time in weeks that the maximum temperature has fallen below 33°C.

While the minimum temperature stood at 23.5°C at 8.30 am, which is 1.2°C above normal, the IMD said it is expected to fall slightly to around 22°C on Wednesday (May 6).

The Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Centre (KSNDMC) has forecast light rainfall of 2.5 mm to 15.5 mm across the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) area. It has also forecast heavy rainfall of 64.5 mm to 115.5 mm at one or two places in the South Interior Karnataka districts, which include Bengaluru, from May 7 to 9.

Meanwhile, the situation in North Interior Karnataka also appears to be easing, with several places recording a slight drop in maximum temperature.

# Two arrested for gold theft at minister's residence

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Shivajinagar police have arrested two persons, including a relative, for allegedly stealing gold ornaments worth Rs 1.13 crore from the Pulakeshinagar residence of Housing Minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan.

The accused have been identified as Ameer Ahmed, 48, a resident of Govindpura, and his associate Syed Ameen Ahmed, 49, of Mathikere.

A senior police officer said the prime accused, Ameer, is known to the family and is a distant relative of the minister's mother, Sogar Khanam. It was Sogar who approached the police to file a complaint.

Police said Ameer had gained the family's confidence by visiting the house regularly on the pretext of helping them. He had suffered losses in his travel business and was in financial distress. He had earlier sought Rs 5 lakh in financial help from the family and had also expressed his wish to visit Mecca. When he did not get any help, he allegedly conspired with his associate Syed, who runs a laundry business, and carried out the theft.

The duo allegedly pledged the stolen gold ornaments at a private finance company to raise money and later invested the proceeds in real estate ventures in a bid to make profits.

Suspicion arose after Ameer stopped visiting the residence following the theft. He also stopped responding to phone calls. His mobile phone remaining switched off after the incident further raised doubts, prompting police to track and arrest him. During interrogation, the accused allegedly confessed to the crime. Based on the evidence gathered, the booty was recovered, police said.

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**SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**
Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (through https://ireps.gov.in)** PUB/173

CE/C/II/SC Construction Organisation, S.C.Railway, Secunderabad, respectively, invites e-tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works:

**SNo 1 NIT No** 23 - CAO- C-SC- 2026 Date: 27/04/2026 **Name of work** SCR Construction Organization: Secunderabad Division - Kazipet - Balharshah section - Bellampalli - Augmentation / Upgradation of Freight Wagon Maintenance Infrastructure Facilities - Extension of ROH Shed, Construction of Cross Pathway, HLPF Surface Works, Construction of Garage Shed, New Electrical Room and Boundary Wall in Bellampalli Station Yard **Details- Estimated Cost:** Rs. 12,90,44,623.14 **EMD:** Rs. 25,80,900.00 **Completion Period:** 180(One eighty days) **Date of Opening:** 25/05/2026 15:00hrs.

**NIT No** EPC-09-CAO-C-SC-2026 Date: 30/04/2026 **Name of work** South Central Railway (Construction Organization)- Secunderabad Division Engineering, Procurementand Construction (EPC) Contract for the Construction of "Important Bridges (2 Nos), i.e., (a) D/S bridges (15 x 20 m) including substructure and superstructure for doubling line and Ramco Cement siding, (b) U/S bridge (15 x 20 m) including substructure and superstructure for Vizag Steel Plant siding, and Earthwork, Blanketing, Track works including Minor and Major Bridges from Ch.:27300.00m to Ch.:28650.00m between Jaggayyapeta Town (excl.) to Revuru Ramapuram Stations (excl.) in connection with Motumari-Vishnupuram doubling project in Secunderabad Division of South Central Railway in the State of Andhra Pradesh **Details - Estimated Cost:** Rs. 110,49,21,078.68 **EMD:** Rs. 2,20,98,400.00 **Completion Period:** 24 (Twenty Four) Months **Date of Opening:** 03/07/2026 15:00hrs.

i) For bid document and other details, please login to website **https://ireps.gov.in.** ii) Tenderers can submit their offers online during tender submission period which is the Fifteen days period prior to closing of tender. iii) Tenderers should watch for any corrigenda (issued online only) up to the date of commencement of the tender submission period.

**Chief Admn. Officer/Const./ Secunderabad**
A198

**For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in**

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**EASTERN RAILWAY**

Inviting e-Tender against Open Tender Notice No.: **08-SDSTE-ASN-2026-27, Dated: 04.05.2026** by Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301 for the following work. **Name of Work/Location :** "Asansol Division: - Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) of Frauscher make Multi Section Digital Axle Counter (MSDAC) at West Dn Receiving cabin/ UDL, East Empty yard cabin/UDL by OEM/Authorised dealer of OEM for Two years"; **Tender Value:** ₹ 66,82,217.60/-; **Earnest Money :** ₹ 1,33,700/-; **Completion period of the work :** 24 months from the date of issue of LOA; **Date & Time of Closing of the Tender** : 28.05.2026 at 15.00 hrs.; **Website Particulars : http://www.ireps.gov.in**
ASN-50/2026-27
**Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in**

**Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter**

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**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**
**ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT, ROAD DIVISION, DUMKA**

**3RD CORRIGENDUM DETAILS of NIT**
**TENDER REFERENCE No.- RCD/DUMKA/514**
**PR 378300 Road (26-27)#D**

NAME OF THE WORK - Construction of High Level Bridge over Dhowae River at ch 41st km and Construction of High Level Bridge over Mudko River at ch 30th km of Dumka-Hansdiha Road under Road Division Dumka for the year 2026-27.
CORRIGENDUM DETAIL of NIT

| | |
|---|---|
| 4 | Date of Publication of Tender on Website – 20.05.2026 10:30 AM **in place of** 05.05.2026 10:30 AM |
| 5 | Last date/Time for receipt of bids15.06.2026 Up to 12.00 Noon **in place of** 03.06.2026 Up to 12.00 Noon |
| 6 | Date of opening of Tender – 16.06.2026 at 12.30 PM **in place of** 04.06.2026 at 12.30 PM |

Other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

**Executive Engineer**
**Road Construction Department, Road Division, Dumka**

**PR 379021 Road(26-27)#D**

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**CENTRAL RAILWAY**
**SOLAPUR DIVISION**
**TENDER FOR DISPLAY BOARD**

**Tender Notice No. SUR-N-T-2026-27-08 Date:** 04.05.2026 DRM(S&T)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms Contractors for the following works :- **Name of work with its locality:** Provision of passenger information display boards with announcement system for crowd control at management various stations of Solapur division on Central Railway. **Tender No.:** SUR-N-T-2026-27-08. **Cost of the work:** ₹2,13,25,776.33, **Cost of the tender form:** NIL, **Earnest money to be deposited:** ₹4,26,500,00, **Completion Period of the work:** 12 Months, **Date & Time of Closing of tender on www.ireps.gov.in:** 29.05.2026 at 15.30 Hrs. The details are available in ireps website. Corrigendum/ amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website. Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual/postal/e-mail, FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with **www.ireps.gov.in**. The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway or in the form of Bank Guarantee and the original Bank Guarantee should be delivered in person to the official nominated as indicated in the tender document before closing date for submission of bids (i.e. excluding the last date of submission of bids). For further details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**.

**DRM (C), Solapur**

IT IS FORBIDDEN TO CROSS THE RAILWAY GATE IN CLOSED POSITION 14

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**Government of India**
**Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)**
**Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) Technology Centre**
**AADHAAR Complex, NTI Layout, Tata Nagar, Kodigehalli, Bengaluru-560092. Ph.: 080-23099200**

सत्यमेव जयते — AADHAAR

**Vacancy circular for filling up various posts of Technical Consultants at Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) Technology Centre, Bengaluru.**

Unique Identification Authority of India invites applications for filling up the posts from Indian citizens for their whole- time services as individual consultants on contractual basis, for an initial period of three years which is extendable upto two years, as per the following details:

| S.No. | Name of the Position | No. of position |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Sr. Mobile Frontend Developer | 2 |
| 2 | Sr. Mobile Backend Developer | 2 |
| 3 | Technical Consultant - Cloud Computing | 1 |

Eligible individuals should go through the eligibility and responsibilities mentioned in **Annexure-A and Annexure** B of detailed Advertisement placed at **www.uidai.gov.in** under the **tab Work with UIDAI / Consultant** and email a scanned copy of their duly completed application form at **recruitment-ted-uidai.net.in, within 15 days from the date when it is published.** Application received after the last date or otherwise found incomplete shall not be considered.

**Director (HR)**

**Now Aadhaar Enrolment and Update Facilities can also be availed at Aadhaar Seva Kendra (ASK). To locate one near you, visit uidai.gov.in or call 1947**

**CBC 54104/11/0003/2627**

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**S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER**

DRM/ENGG, South Eastern Railway, Chakradharpur acting for & on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Open Tender. Manual Offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Sl.No.**-1. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-WEST-26-27-03, Date: 01.05.2026. Name of work:** Through Ballast Renewal along with deep screening under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN(West)/ Chakradharpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 8,09,87,310.73. **EMD:** ₹ 16,19,800. **Date of Opening:** 22.05.2026. **Sl.No.**-2. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-SOUTH-26-27-03, Date: 01.05.2026. Name of work:** Through Turnout Renewal [TTR (FS+CS+CMSC)] for total 69 sets in Padapahar-Nayagarh & TTR (FS+CS+CMSC) for total 74 sets in Rajkharsawan Jn.-Padapahar section for layout correction under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN (South)/Chakradharpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 2,72,83,608.71. **EMD:** ₹ 5,45,700. **Date of Opening:** 26.05.2026. **Sl.No.**-3. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-CENTRAL-26-27-05, Date: 01.05.2026. Name of work:** Chakradharpur Division- TTR - 84 Sets under the jurisdiction of DEN (Central)/ Chakradharpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,03,34,299.27. **EMD:** ₹ 2,06,700. **Date of Opening:** 28.05.2026. **Sl.No.**-4. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-CENTRAL-26-27-06, Date: 01.05.2026. Name of work:** Rajkharsawan-Sonua (DN) - TSR (P) - 27.883 TKM by TRT. **Tender Value:** ₹ 4,87,63,625.35. **EMD:** ₹ 9,75,300. **Date of Opening:** 02.06.2026. **Sl.No.**-5. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-EAST-26-27-05, Date: 01.05.2026. Name of work:** Construction of bridges and other associated works for drainage improvement of Tatanagar East yard. **Tender Value:** ₹ 21,91,13,849.55. **EMD:** ₹ 43,82,300. **Date of Opening:** 26.05.2026. **Sl.No.**-6. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-WEST-26-27-04, Date: 01.05.2026. Name of work:** TTR 200 sets under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN(West)/ Chakradharpur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 2,01,94,941.55. **EMD:** ₹ 4,03,900. **Date of Opening:** 25.05.2026. **Sl.No.**-7. **Tender Notice No.: CKP-WEST-26-27-05, Date: 01.05.2026. Name of work:** Through Sleeper Renewal (P) of 46.003 Tkm between station Rourkela-Jharsuguda Jn. by Track Relaying Train (TRT), Deep screening by BCM and T-28 and other miscellaneous works under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN(West)/Chakradharpur in Chakradharpur Division. **Tender Value:** ₹ 6,04,20,359.91. **EMD:** ₹ 12,08,400. **Date of Opening:** 25.05.2026. **Cost of Tender form:** ₹ 0 (for Sl.No. 1 to 7 each). The tender can be viewed at website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**. The tenderer/ bidders must have class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering. **Note:** e-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Authority– Railway Board's letter no. 2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/Policy dtd. 16.07.2020). **(PR-121)**

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**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**
**APPLICATION NOTIFICATION NO. 565/STBA/04-03/2026**

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed applications for engagement of station Ticket booking agents ( STBA) at the following railway station over Bengaluru Division of South Western Railway for issuing of Unreserved/General Tickets through Unreserved Ticket System (UTS) on commission basis for a period of Three (03) years:

| Sl.No. | Name of the Station | Section Code | Station Category |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Marikuppam | MKM | NSG-5 |
| 2. | Patchur | PU | NSG-6 |
| 3. | Somanayakapatti | SKPT | |

Last date for Submission of Application : **Upto 10.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs on 05.06.2026**

**For details log on : www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in**

**Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru**

**PUB/87/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27**

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

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**CENTRAL RAILWAY**
**SOLAPUR DIVISION**
**ELECTRIFICATION WORKS**

**E-TENDER NOTICE:** The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website:**www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No.**: SUR/TD/T/2026/14 **Name of Work:** 1. Electrification of Unwired pit lines/sidings of Solapur Division. 2. Electrical TRD portion of work in connection with the proposed construction of 2 lane ROB in lieu of LC-40 at km 387/3-4 and LC-42 at km 391/8-9 of Daund- Solapur section in Solapur Division. **Estimated cost:** ₹2,14,90,357.56/- **Bid Security:** ₹4,29,800/- **Completion Period:**12 months, **Validity of offer:** 60 Days, **Date & time of tender closing on website:** 28/05/2026 at 15.00 hours.

**Sr. DEE (TRD)**

IT IS FORBIDDEN TO CROSS THE RAILWAY GATE IN CLOSED POSITION. 15

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**JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED**
**(A Government of Jharkhand Undertaking)**
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001
**E-Mail**Id - pdt.juidco@gmail.com, juidcolimited@gmail.com
**CIN:** U45200JH2013SGC001752

**TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE**
**PR Ref No: 374271**
**NIT No: JUIDCO/NIT/Hinoo Chowk/RNC/686**
**Tender ID: 2026_UDD_111076_1**
**Name of the work: Development of Roundabout of Hinoo Chowk Softscaped & Hardscaped work.**

The tender for the work "Development of Roundabout of Hinoo Chowk Softscaped & Hardscaped work" (JUIDCO/NIT/Hinoo Chowk/RNC/686; bearing Tender ID: 2026_UDD_111076_1) is hereby cancelled as the bid received was found to be technically non-responsive. All bidders are requested to wait for fresh notification in this regard.

Sd/-
**Project Director (Technical)**
**JUIDCO Ltd., Ranchi**

PR 379044 Urban Development and Housing (26-27)_D

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**SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY**
**MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**
**NOTIFICATION**
**Bengaluru the 17th April, 2026**

**S.O.1931(E)**.-In the exercise of the powers conferred by clause (6) of section 20F and clause 7A of section 2 of the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) the Ministry of Railway (South Western Railway, Construction Organization, Bengaluru Cantonment) hereby authorizes the officers mentioned in column (4) of the table below as 'Competent Authority' and the officers mentioned in column (5) of the table below as 'Arbitrator' to perform the functions as such authority under the said act with effect from date of publication of this notification in the official gazette in respect of Special Railway Projects mentioned in column (2) relating to district mentioned in column (3) of the table below for public purpose of execution, maintenance, management and operation of such Special Railway Project.

| SN | Name of the Project | District | Competent Authority | Arbitrator |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Construction of Road Over Tumakuru Bridge with LHS in lieu of LC No. 81 in Tumakuru - Arsikere (TK-ASK) Section, Koppa Village,Tiptur Taluk, Tumakuru District | Tumakuru | Special land acquisition officer Tumakuru Rayadurga Project, Tumakuru Railway | Regional Commissioner, Bengaluru |

**[F.No.W.271/CN/BNC/2026-27 Land SRP/1727]**

**For details log on : https://egazette.gov.in**

**PARDEEP PURI, Chief Engineer-III/Construction, Bengaluru Cantonment**

**PUB/89/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27**

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

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**SPECIAL BRANCH**
**POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL**

NO. SB/Store/2026-25 (324), Bhopal, Dated 29-04-2026

**"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE "**

E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P.. Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app:-

| S. No. | Name of Item(s) | Qty. | Tender Fees (Rs.) Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in | EMD (Rs.) Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in | Tender No. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Image and Video Authentication Software | 01 | 10,000/- | 3,96,000/- | 1st Tender |

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & **must submit online through website** https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.
2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)
3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: https ://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
4. **Tender Schedule :**

| No. | Tender Activity | Date & Time |
|---|---|---|
| i | E-Tender Publish Date | 30/04/2026 at 1400 hrs. |
| ii | Tender document download Start Date | 30/04/2026 up to 1430 hrs. |
| iii | Submission of written queries - through e-mail: **aigg-sb@mppolice.gov.in** | **05/05/2026 up to 1700 hrs.** |
| iv | Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries | 06/05/2026 at 1200 hrs. |
| v | Bid Submission Start Date | 11/05/2026 at 1000 hrs. |
| vi | Last date of online e-Tender submission | 20/05/2026 up to 1600 hrs. |
| vii | Bid will be opened on | 21/05/2026 up to 1600 hrs. |
| viii | Demonstration from | Demo date will be announced Separately |

5. Intending Bidders are advised to visit this website regularly till closing date of submission to keep themselves updated as any change/ modification in the tender will be intimated through this website only by corrigendum /addendum/ amendment.
6. Bids will be opened as per date/time as mentioned in the Tender Critical Date Sheet. After online opening of Technical-Bid the results of their qualification as well Price-Bid opening will be intimated later.

**Sd/-**
**D. I. G. of Police**
**Intelligence (G) M.P. Bhopal**
**Tel No. 0755- 2443654**

**G-12450/26**

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**SPECIAL BRANCH**
**POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL**

NO. SB/Store/2026-25 (316), Bhopal, Dated 29-04-2026

**"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE "**

E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P.. Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app:-

| S. No. | Name of Item(s) | Qty. | Tender Fees (Rs.) Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in | EMD (Rs.) Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in | Tender No. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Zoom Lens and Camera with Tripod | 01 | 2,000/- | 21,000/- | 1st Tender |

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & **must submit online through website** https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.
2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)
3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: https ://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
4. Tender Schedule :

| No. | Tender Activity | Date & Time |
|---|---|---|
| i | E-Tender Publish Date | 30/04/2026 at 1400 hrs. |
| ii | Tender document download Start Date | 30/04/2026 up to 1430 hrs. |
| iii | Submission of written queries - through e-mail: **aigg-sb@mppolice.gov.in** | **05/05/2026 up to 1700 hrs.** |
| iv | Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries | 06/05/2026 at 1200 hrs. |
| v | Bid Submission Start Date | 11/05/2026 at 1000 hrs. |
| vi | Last date of online e-Tender submission | 20/05/2026 up to 1600 hrs. |
| vii | Bid will be opened on | 21/05/2026 up to 1600 hrs. |
| viii | Demonstration from | Demo date will be announced Separately |

5. Intending Bidders are advised to visit this website regularly till closing date of submission to keep themselves updated as any change/ modification in the tender will be intimated through this website only by corrigendum /addendum/ amendment.
6. Bids will be opened as per date/time as mentioned in the Tender Critical Date Sheet. After online opening of Technical-Bid the results of their qualification as well Price-Bid opening will be intimated later.

**Sd/-**
**D. I. G. of Police**
**Intelligence (G) M.P. Bhopal**
**Tel No. 0755- 2443654**

**G-12448/26**

## Centre okays quadrupling of Guntakal–Wadi railway line

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The cabinet committee on economic affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Tuesday approved three railway multi-tracking projects, including quadrupling of the Guntakal–Wadi line.

The total cost of the project was Rs 23,437 crore, said the government in a statement.

The other two projects cleared were quadrupling of the Nagda–Mathura and Burhwal–Sitapur lines.

The increased line capacity will significantly enhance mobility, resulting in improved operational efficiency and service reliability.

These multi-tracking proposals were poised to streamline operations and alleviate congestion, the statement said.

## 10-day mango, jackfruit mela at Cubbon Park from May 8

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The city will host a state-level mango and jackfruit mela at Cubbon Park from May 8 to 17, bringing together growers from across Karnataka for a 10-day sale and exhibition. The event is being organised by the Department of Horticulture and Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation Limited.

The mela comes at a time when mango arrivals are expected to be delayed this season due to adverse weather, delayed flowering and uneven crop growth across regions. Organisers said the fair will help consumers buy naturally ripened, carbide-free fruits directly from farmers while ensuring better prices for growers.

Around 50 mango stalls and seven jackfruit stalls have been allotted. Visitors will be able to purchase popular mango and jackfruit varieties. Raw mangoes suitable for pickle making will also be available.

Growers from Ramanagara, Mandya, Tumakuru and Uttara Kannada will participate. The GI-tagged Kari Ishad mango from Uttara Kannada will be a key attraction.

The mela will be inaugurated on May 8 at 10 am by B C Muddugangadhar, chairman of the corporation.

# Govt plans auto-release of EMD to unsuccessful bidders

### Dues in thousands of crores of rupees: Contractors' assn

**BHARATH JOSHI**
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Siddaramaiah administration, seeking to mollify contractors angry over huge pending bills, has devised a system to automatically release earnest money deposits (EMD) to unsuccessful bidders for public tenders.

EMD is a refundable security amount, usually 1-5% of the project cost, paid by bidders to show that they are serious about taking up a work for which tenders are floated.

The Karnataka State Contractors' Association (KSCA) has slammed the government for not refunding EMDs for years. The e-governance department, which reports to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, has proposed an auto-release system for EMDs, which a top official said would benefit contractors.

"In any tender, a large number of bidders participate. They have to pay an EMD. This EMD is refunded to unsuccessful bidders," principal secretary (e-governance) Pankaj Kumar Pandey said.

Pandey pointed out that contractors, or agencies, would have applied for multiple tenders at a time. "Their money, in the form of EMD, will be stuck," he said.

"Currently, EMD is released only after the letter of intent is given to the lowest bidder, or L1, which takes some time," Pandey said.

A letter of intent is a document issued by the procuring entity (a government department that has floated the tender) to the successful bidder, stating its intention to award the contract.

"Under the auto-release system, the EMD will be refunded after the declaration of the lowest bidder (L1), unless there's a court case or litigation," Pandey said. "That way, it'll simplify the procedure and help contractors".

The proposal to introduce the auto-release system was discussed at a review meeting Siddaramaiah had with top secretaries last week.

"Thousands of crores of rupees in EMD is with the government," KSCA president R Manjunath said. His estimate is that Rs 1,500 crore in fixed security deposit (FSD) and EMD is lying with the government. "The government should release the EMD after two lowest bidders are finalised," he insisted.

So far in 2026, various government departments and agencies have floated 19,303 tenders worth Rs 25,846 crore, according to the Karnataka progress portal. The KSCA, whose kickback allegations against the previous BJP government dented the saffron party's prospects in the 2023 elections, is on the warpath against the present Congress government.

The association has charged that the kickbacks had increased under the Congress government and pending bills have swelled to Rs 37,370 crore.

## Fake RC racket busted; 51 stolen two-wheelers seized

BENGALURU, DHNS

Hebbagodi police have cracked an inter-state vehicle theft racket involving the use of forged registration certificates (RCs) to sell stolen two-wheelers online. About 51 stolen bikes worth Rs 41.67 lakh have been recovered.

The arrested have been identified as Chittappa Gari, 33, a native of Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh who was residing in a rented house in Laggere, and Shaik Safeer Bhasha, 37, from Nandyal in Andhra Pradesh.

According to police, the racket came to light following a complaint of a two-wheeler theft registered in Gollahalli. Based on a tip-off, police tracked down and apprehended Chittappa Gari on April 5. During interrogation, he confessed to stealing multiple two-wheelers from different parts of the city. After stealing the vehicles, he would allegedly alter their identities by creating fake RC cards.

Chittappa, with the assistance of Shaik Safeer Bhasha, who operated from a cyber centre, allegedly generated forged documents and printed them to resemble original registration certificates.

The duo then used social media platforms, including Facebook, to advertise the stolen vehicles for sale at attractive prices, targeting unsuspecting buyers. The bikes were sold using the fake RCs, making it difficult for purchasers to verify their authenticity, police said.

Based on the information provided by Chittappa, police traced and detained Bhasha, who was involved in preparing the fake RCs.

During the operation, police seized a computer, printer and other equipment used to forge documents, along with 501 fake RC cards.

Police said the accused had concealed the stolen bikes at different locations across the city before selling them. With their arrest, a total of 27 vehicle theft cases reported in the limits of Hebbagodi, Parappana Agrahara and Kamakshipalya police stations have been detected.

A KSRTC Pallakki bus caught fire near Devaragudda in Ranebennur late on Monday night. Fortunately, the driver made all the 17 passengers to deboard on noticing smoke, thus saving their lives.

## KSRTC bus catches fire in Ranebennur; passengers unhurt

RANEBENNUR (HAVERI DISTRICT), DHNS

A Gadag-bound KSRTC Pallakki (non-AC sleeper) bus was reduced to ashes after it caught fire near Devaragudda in Ranebennur, Haveri district late on Monday night.

Fortunately, all the 17 passengers on board the bus escaped unscathed.

The bus, which had departed from Bengaluru, was travelling along the stretch of the national highway between Devaragudda and Guttal, when a passenger noticed a strange sound emanating from one of the tyres on the application of the brakes. The passenger immediately intimated the driver, Fakirappa.

The driver wasted no time in pulling over the bus to the side of the road. Alighting from the vehicle, Fakirappa noticed smoke arising from the rear of the bus. He immediately opened the emergency exit door and broke the windows of the bus and hurried the passengers out of the vehicle.

Minutes after everyone exited the bus, the entire vehicle caught fire and erupted in flames.

A case has been filed in connection with the incident at the Ranebennur rural police station.

A fault in the brake liner of the bus has been identified as the cause of the fire. Authorities have recorded statements from the driver and the passengers. Police said that technical experts would be enlisted to ascertain the exact cause of the fire.

Haveri district superintendent of police Yashoda Vantagodi, deputy SP J Lokesh visited the accident site and took stock of the damage to the bus.

# No surrender of seats after 1st round of counselling, engineering colleges told

### Practice disrupts entire counselling schedule, says KEA

BENGALURU, DHNS

Taking a hard line against the practice adopted by engineering colleges of surrendering unfilled seats, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has decided not to allow institutions to surrender such seats after the conclusion of the first round of seat allotment this year.

The Department of Higher Education pointed out that surrender of seats after the first round, besides inconveniencing students, disrupted the entire counselling process.

KEA reportedly proffered this suggestion at a recent meeting with representatives of private engineering colleges, convened to discuss the fee structure and seat sharing for the 2026-27 academic year. "The KEA officials took a firm stand on the issue. Private colleges and the government were told that seats surrendered after the first round would not be accepted," a government official said.

Students already allotted a seat in the first round, were often tempted to try their luck bagging another from the pool of surrendered seats, which disrupted the counselling schedule, a KEA official told *DH*.

One college surrendered more than 700 seats after the first round last year, the official added. "Most of these seats were for Computer Science and allied subjects. These seats were filled with considerable difficulty," the official said.

Furthermore, the consensual agreement between the government and private colleges stipulates that the institutions cannot surrender seats after the first round. The fee for surrendered seats will be the same as charged for regular seats allotted from the government's quota, officials added.

More than 15,000 engineering seats found no takers last year, including those surrendered by colleges after the first round, officials said.

## Law against 'honour' crimes kicks in

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Karnataka Freedom of Choice in Marriage and Prevention and Prohibition of Crimes in the Name of Honour and Tradition (Eva Nammava, Eva Nammava) Act came into force from Tuesday, the state government said in a notification.

Under this law, people who kill "in the name of honour" will face a five-year jail term. Causing grievous hurt to a couple or either of them will attract a minimum of three years in jail and a fine of up to Rs 3 lakh.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

My clients intend to purchase the property shown in the schedule below from **Sri. MOHAMMED AZIA ULLAH,** aged about 54 years, S/o Late Rasool alias Mohammed Shafiulla, Residing at No. 79/11, 1st Cross, Nandidurga Road, Ramaiah Reddy Layout, Benson Town, Bangalore-560 046.

Any person(s) having any claims or rights over the schedule property or having any valid and tenable objections to the proposal of my client to purchase the schedule property from Sri. MOHAMMED AZIA ULLAH may lodge his/their claims/rights or objections, if any with the undersigned within **15 (fifteen)** days from the date of publication of this notice.

Please note that if no valid objections or claims are received within the said period, my clients shall proceed with the transactions and no claims/objections received thereafter will be entertained nor will it bind my client.

**SCHEDULE**

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing No.79/11, (Old No. 79/1C) PID No.92/1/79/11, situated at Nandidurga Road, Bangalore, Jayamahal Ward No.63, measuring East by 45 feet, West by 35 feet, North BY 59 Feet and South by 59 feet and totally measuring 2360 Sq.ft and bounded as the:

**East by**: Road, **West by:** Private Property, **North by**: Private Property, **South by:** Private Property

**Mr. NIRUPAN GOWDA H.N.** Advocate No.404, Janak Residency, No. 51, Kumara Krupa Road, Madhava Nagar, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560001, Bangalore, Date:05/05/2026

**EASTERN RAILWAY**

**Open E-Tender Notice No. 22, 26, 33-MLDT-26-27 [Civil & Bridge Works], Dated: 30.04.2026.** Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Malda Town, Office Building, P.O. Jhaljhalia, Dist.- Malda, Pin-732102 (W.B.) invites Open e-tender notice for the following works : **(1) Tender No. : 22-MLDT-26-27; Name of Work :** Open e-tender for Civil works in connection with Augmentation of infrastructure facilities at DEMU Maintenance shed, Sahibganj in the jurisdiction of Assistant Engineer / Sahibganj under Sr. Divisional Engineer-II/Eastern Railway/Malda; **Tender Value :** ₹ 4,87,94,430.55; **(2) Tender No. : 26-MLDT-26-27; Name of Work** : Open e-tender for the work of replacement of Bearing of Important Bridge No. 46D (109 X 18.3m) at Km 258/2-260/5 in between Malda Town - New Farakka section of Malda Division under Assistant Engineer / Bridge Line/Malda, Eastern Railway; **Tender Value :** ₹ 4,69,54,991.00; **(3) Tender No. : 33-MLDT-26-27; Name of Work** : Open e-tender for the work of Extension of Crew Booking Lobby and Running Room of Jamalpur & Renovation/ Augmentation of existing Crew Booking Lobby and Running Room of Jamalpur in the jurisdiction of Assistant Engineer/Line/Jamalpur under Sr. Divisional Engineer-III/ Eastern Railway/Malda; **Tender Value :** ₹ 2,27,00,764.13; **Tender Closing Date :** 21.05.2026, 15:30 Hrs. for Tender No. 1 to 3 each; **Website & Notice Board: www.ireps.gov.in/DRM Office/MLDT.**

MLD-33/2026-27

**Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in**

Follow us at : @EasternRailway
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**Metro Railway, Kolkata**

e-Tender is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway, Kolkata for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work: **Name of work:** Retrofit of RC plinth on viaduct to prevent shifting of Rail plinth at Km 16/18 to 25/4 in both UP & DN Lines from Mahanayak Uttam Kumar to Kavi Subhash in section of Blue Line of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Approx Cost of Work:** ₹ 2,76,81,963/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 5,53,600/-. **Completion Period:** 09 (Nine) Months, **Date and Time of Closing:** 29.05.2026 at 12:00 hrs. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website **www.ireps.gov.in.** Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be uploaded only on the website.

**Abridged e-Tender Notice No.: Civil-2570-2026-(Open)**

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CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752, e-mail Id-juidcolimited@gmail.com

**NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/Hinoo Chowk/RNC/705 Date- 05.05.2026**
**e-Procurement (Tender Notice)**
**2nd Call of Tender**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Name of Work | Development of Roundabout of Hinoo Chowk Softscaped & Hardscaped work |
| 2 | Mode of Bid Submission | e-tendering (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) |
| 3 | Estimated Cost (Rs.) | Rs. 3,16,49,546.00/- (Rupees Three Crore Sixteen Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Six) only. |
| 4 | Time of Completion | 04 Months |
| 5 | Tender Fee and Bid Security to be submitted online | Tender document fee: Rs 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand) only. **Non-Refundable.** Bid Security: Rs 3,17,000.00/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Seventeen Thousand) only |
| 6 | Date/Time of Publication of Tender on Website | 06.05.2026 at 15:00 Hrs. |
| 7 | Last Date/Time of Bid Submission | 28.05.2026 at 17:00 Hrs. |
| 8 | Date/Time of opening of Bid | 29.05.2026 at 17:00 Hrs. |
| 9 | Bid Submission Address | Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Limited, JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi, Jharkhand- 834001 |
| 10 | Helpline Number of e-procurement Cell | 0651-2225878 |

Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

PR.NO.379049 Urban Development and Housing(26-27):D

Sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
JUIDCO Ltd, Ranchi

# Cubbon Park walkers raise alarm over polluted water inflow

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Cubbon Park Walkers' Association has raised alarm over contaminated wastewater entering the park's water bodies from underground drains, with fears that the problem could worsen on days of heavy rain and during cricket matches at the nearby M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Association president and advocate S Umesh Kumar said the water, which is black and foul-smelling, is flowing through an old rajakaluve from the Cubbon Road side via Queens Park and into the park through the bamboo grove and wetland zone.

He said the wetland, which had earlier been saved from concreting during the Smart City redevelopment due to citizen intervention, is now absorbing much of the discharge.

From there, the flow reportedly reaches the Lotus Pond, which has fish, tortoises and birdlife, before moving through Bal Bhavan, the bamboo island and the boating area, and finally passing behind the Venkatappa Art Gallery and the horticulture office towards Siddlingiah Junction.

A snake is seen navigating the edge of a stagnant water body in Cubbon Park, Bengaluru, where accumulated rainwater mixed with plastic waste and debris has created foul conditions, raising concerns over poor upkeep and its impact on urban wildlife. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Walkers said a tortoise was recently seen in the polluted waterbody, along with a rat snake, while dead fish were observed surfacing unusually, prompting concerns about water quality. They also pointed out that the two aerators installed in the Lotus Pond have not been functioning for a long time.

The association said dead fish were found floating days after a hailstorm and urged the authorities to inspect the water system and restore regular maintenance.

It also noted that horticulture staff are currently occupied with Census duties, affecting routine upkeep and the removal of fallen branches.

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## Wodeyar Express to stop at Ramanagar

**BENALURU, DHNS:** Minister of State for Railways V Somanna flagged off the stoppage of the Mysuru-Bengaluru-Mysuru Wodeyar Express (12613/12614) at Ramanagar on Tuesday. The railways said the stoppage for the superfast train would benefit students, traders and businessmen.

Ramanagar MLA Iqbal Hussain requested for underpasses at two to three locations in Ramanagar for public convenience. Somanna assured he would discuss the matter with officials, a release said.

**No. F. A-12034/3/2025-E-III Section**
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**Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi - 110 016**
**www.ncert.nic.in**

Advertisement No. 01-2025

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| 3 | A | Business Manager | PB-III, Rs. 15600-39100 GP 6600/- | 2 | RPDC Ahmedabad and Guwahati |
| 4 | A | Assistant Production Officer | PB-III, Rs. 15600-39100 GP 5400/- | 1 | Pub. Division New Delhi |
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| 9 | B | Editorial Assistant | PB-II, Rs. 9300-34800 GP 4200/- | 2 | Pub. Division Post (English-1, Hindi-1) New Delhi |
| 10 | B | Assistant Store Officer | PB-II, Rs. 9300-34800 GP 4200/- | 1 | NIE New Delhi |
| 11 | B | Artist Gr.-II | PB-II, Rs. 9300-34800 GP 4200/- | 1 | Pub. Division New Delhi |
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**Age Limit:** Not exceeding 56 years.

Eligible and willing officers may apply through proper channel in the prescribed format as Annexure-I along with vigilance clearance, integrity certificate, and attested copies of APARs for the last five years.

The complete application should reach to the Under Secretary, E-III Section, NCERT, Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi - 110016 within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News in the enclosed proforma. Applications received after the due date or without the required documents shall not be considered and no communication shall be entertained in this regard.

Detail Advertisement & application Performa for the posts, eligibility conditions, pay scales, and other terms and conditions are available on the official website of NCERT at **www.ncert.nic.in in** >Announcements > vacancies > Non-Academic.

**CBC 21104/12/0001/2627**

# Summer water crisis: Govt releases extra Rs 72 cr

BENGALURU, DHNS

Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge on Tuesday said the government released an additional Rs 72 crore to mitigate drinking water shortage in rural areas. This brings the total allocation for drinking water-related works to Rs 208.67 crore since March this year.

In a statement, Priyank said that the money was being utilized for emergency drinking water projects as well as to clear pending payments of works previously approved. "Karnataka is fundamentally a semi-arid region. During summer, existing water sources dry up and the yield of borewells decreases, causing significant hardship to the public," he said.

Under this grant, district administrations have been directed to prioritize increasing water availability by flushing and deepening existing borewells. In locations where water sources are unavailable, permission has been granted to hire private borewells on a rental basis or to supply water via tankers. He added that in unavoidable circumstances, directives have been issued to drill new borewells based on geologist reports and to install necessary pipelines and pumping machinery.

Earlier in the day, Priyank met Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who is also the water resources minister, to discuss the drinking water shortage in Kalaburagi.

"There's a drinking water problem in Kalaburagi city, Afzalpur and Aland where a drought is looming. We need Maharashtra to release water. So, I came with this request to Shivakumar," said Priyank, who is also Kalaburagi in-charge minister.


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**PUBLIC NOTICE** It is for general information that I was previously known as **Neelakantan Navaneethakrishnan** S/O Neelakantan Sanal Kumar, R/O A44, Medley, Goodearth Malhar, Behind ACS College of Engg., Kengeri, PO: Kumbalagodu, DIST: Bengaluru South, Karnataka-560060, and after being diagnosed with Gender Dysphoria under the supervision of registered medical practitioner in Bangalore, **have changed my gender as Female.** I shall henceforth be known as Neelakantan Navaneethakrishnan D/O Neelakantan Sanal Kumar. Vide the affidavit dated 28-03-2026, before Notary S.I. Balaguru, Bengaluru (Reg No 10191).

PERSONAL

Lost

**DOCUMENT LOST** I, **Bobba Srinivas,** residing at No. 42, 3rd Main, 6th Cross, 1st Floor, Ramaiah Layout, Kammanahalli, Bengaluru- 560084, have lost my **Original Sale Deed Identification No.1559 & 1560, Plot No's: 11, 12 & Survey No.: 83, 84, Thimmapur Village, year 2004. Registered at Shad Nagar, SRO Hyderabad, Telangana.** If found please contact: **8618992701**

Change of Name

**I, SRI.** K.R. Sathish Reddy, Aged about 51 Years, S/o. Late Rama Reddy. A, R/at No. 20, Royale Habitat Housing Colony, Near Nagarjuna Apartment, HSR Layout 2nd Sector, Bangalore- 560034 now Bangalore- 560102 declares that my name is to be read as (i) " K.R. Sathish Reddy"(ii) "Sathish Reddy K.R." and (iii) " K.R Satish Reddy " (iv) "Satish Reddy K.R." for all practical purposes by reading along with Aadhar Cards and other documents and the same is attested before the Notary public Sri. C. Venkatapathy Advocate and Notary Sl. No. 131 Page No. 08, Volume No. 03 dated 28-04-2026.

**I, SAASHIKA** RAMASWAMY, Residing at Bengaluru-560100 have changed my name as SAASHIKA, vide affidavit dated 5/5/2026 before Notary K.S. Bammappanavar, Bengaluru

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| Total Number of Students opted for Placements | 163 |
| Total Number of Students Placed | 160 |
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CHANGE OF NAME
I, **R Mohammadh Abbas** S/o **Abibulla,** Residing at No.30, 3rd Cross, Raghuram Layout, Ramachandrapura Post, Jalahalli, Bangalore-560013, declare that my correct name is **MOHAMMED ABBAS** and my father's name is wrongly mentioned in some of my documents as **RAHOOB SAIT.** His correct name is **ABIBULLA,** vide affidavit dated 12-03-2026 before notary H.R Karunakara, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **CHRIS JOSHUA,** residing at No. 9/2, R.V Shetty Layout, Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560020, have changed my name to **CHRIS JOSHUA R** vide affidavit dated 05-05-2026 before notary C.K. Anupama, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **CHRIS JOSHUA R** only

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Pradeep M** S/o Mahadev Residing at No.4, Near Forest Office Kaggalipura, Kanakapura Main Road, Bangalore-560082 have changed my son's name from **HANVITH P** to **HARSHITH P** vide affidavit dated 02.05.2026 sworn before notary Chethana S V, B'lore.

**I, K** RAMESHA residing No.65, Venkateshwara College Road, Classmate Enclave, Kadiganahalli Vidyanagara Cross, Bettahalsur Post, Bangalore-562157 have changed K RAMESH vide affidavit dated 01/04/2026 sworn before notary D.Sarala Kumari, Bangalore

## Amit Shah to inaugurate event to mark BSY's 50 yrs in politics

Amit Shah

**BELAGAVI, DHNS:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate a programme on May 9 to celebrate former chief minister B S Yediyurappa's 50 years in political life. The event, organised by BSY Abhimanotsav Samiti, will be held at Chitradurga.

Samiti chairman and former MP Dr Prabhakar Kore told reporters on Tuesday that more than five lakh people were expected to attend, given Yediyurappa's organisational skills and his pro-people and pro-farmer programmes.

Kore said that Yeddiyurappa worked for the upliftment of all classes during his 50 years in public life and was instrumental in forming the first BJP government in southern India. His efforts for north Karnataka won him admirers across the region.

The World Kannada conference was held in Belagavi, the winter session of the state legislature commenced there, and Suvarna Vidhana Soudha was constructed owing to his efforts. Successive governments have not been able to construct a legislators' house after his tenure, Kore said.

Chitradurga MP Govind Karjol will preside over the programme. Union ministers Pralhad Joshi, H D Kumaraswamy, Shobha Karandlaje and V Somanna, BJP state president B Y Vijayendra, MPs Jagadish Shettar and Basavaraj Bommai, opposition leaders R Ashoka and Chaluvadi Narayanswamy, and seers of all communities will be present at the event.

# Sringeri recounting: Siddu alleges 'vote dacoity' by BJP

## How votes valid in 2023 are invalid now, asks Cong

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday accused the BJP of "criminal conspiracy" and "vote dacoity" in Sringeri Assembly constituency, where BJP candidate D N Jeevaraj has been declared as the winner by 52 votes in the recounting.

In the 2023 Assembly elections, Congress' T D Rajegowda secured 59,171 votes as against 58,970 for BJP's Jeeveraj, and won by a margin of 201 votes.

Addressing a press conference, Siddaramaiah said: "In the previous Assembly elections (2023), Rajegowda secured 569 votes in the postal ballots, while Jeevaraj got 692. After recounting, 255 votes for Rajegowda have been disqualified and he has secured only 314 postal votes (690 for Jeevaraj). BJP has engineered 'vote chori' through a criminal conspiracy. The 250 votes Rajegowda secured have been systematically tampered with. This is vote dacoity."

Recollecting that there was a BJP government at both the centre and state in 2023, Siddaramaiah said the "vote tampering" has occured through officials.

Noting that the ballots counted as valid in 2023 in the presence of election officials and agents of all parties were later invalidated during the recount, Siddaramaiah said: "There were variations in ink markings on some of the rejected ballots and these required forensic examination before declaration of result."

The chief minister felt that the election declaration should have been left to the court. "Instead of that, the returning officer has only declared the result without the observer's permission. If any official is guilty, they must be punished."

In another press conference, KPCC vice president B L Shankar noted that the High Court had directed that there should be recounting of 279 votes which were invalidated in 2023. He noted that during the recounting of these 279 votes, two votes had come to Rajegowda, while one had been cast in favour of Jeevaraj.

"But when they went to recount the votes invalidated in 2023, there was a problem. A ballot paper is considered only when the election agent approves it. But the votes that were valid earlier are now invalidated. We don't know how this happened."

Shankar noted that 257 votes, which were cast in Rajegowda's favour, now had "double marking." The KPCC has accused Vedamurthy, the election officer of D N Jeevaraj and Ramesh, the then Deputy Commissioner of Chikkamagaluru, of "conspiring" to invalidate the ballot papers in favour of Rajegowda.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah addressess a press meet in Bengaluru on Tuesday. Congress MLA Rizwan Arshad is also seen.

**Counting conundrum**

| TOTAL VOTES IN 2023 | |
|---|---|
| RAJEGOWDA | JEEVARAJ |
| **59,171** (58,602 + 569 postal ballots) | **58,970** (58,278 + 692 postal ballots) |

Rajegowda won by 201 votes

| AFTER RECOUNTING IN 2026 | |
|---|---|
| RAJEGOWDA | JEEVARAJ |
| **58,916** (58,602 + 314 postal ballots) | **58,968** (58,278 + 690 postal ballots) |

Jeevaraj won by 52 votes

255 of the 567 postal votes for Rajegowda invalidated (only 314 found valid)

**T D RAJEGOWDA**

"I have suffered injustice. I won by 201 votes but they have conspired to defeat me. This is unconstitutional. I am confident of getting justice through the election commission and the courts.

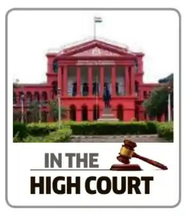
# High Court stays FIR against BJP MLA Jeevaraj

## Case registered under political pressure: HC

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday stayed till May 7, the FIR registered against D N Jeevaraj, who was declared MLA from Sringeri constituency after a recounting of postal ballots. The BJP MLA challenged the May 3, 2026, FIR for postal ballot tampering allegedly happened after the counting process on May 13, 2023.

Vacation judge Justice V Srishananda noted that the FIR was lodged only after the recount and revision of the election result. The court observed that the FIR regarding an incident of May 13, 2023, looks like a politically influenced complaint.




The recounting took place on May 3, 2026, pursuant to the directions issued by the high court in an election petition filed by BJP candidate Jeevaraj. After the returning officer formally declared a revised result, in which Jeevaraj was declared the winning candidate, a complaint was filed by Sudhir Kumar Murolli, poll counting agent for Congress candidate T D Rajegowda.

The complaint stated that certain postal ballots, particularly the ones with votes in favour of Rajegowda, were manipulated after the counting in 2023. The FIR was registered by the Chikkamagaluru police for offences under IPC sections 143, 465, 468, 471, 120B, 149 and section 136 of the Representation of People Act. The FIR also named Deputy Commissioner K N Ramesh and former Returning Officer Vedamurthy.

In his petition, Jeeravaja stated that upon considering his election petition, the high court had directed re-verification of rejected postal ballots, recounting of all postal ballots and issuance of a fresh declaration of results if there was any change in the vote count. The petition contended that the allegations in the complaint pertain to the very counting process and postal ballot verification which were subject matter of election petition before the high court and that after considering the irregularities, the court had issued directions for reverification and recounting.

The court orally observed that even if there were irregularities, the remedy should have been an election petition.

"This is visible. The case has been registered for political pressure. If the same case was registered against Rajegowda, I would have stayed that also. This is nothing but an abuse of process. What is going on? When counting is under the court's direction, necessary precautions are needed. What is this process of making deputy commissioner, agent and all as an accused party? If this is the situation, no officer will work properly. What the Supreme Court observed in respect of West Bengal will be applicable directly. The Supreme Court appointed judges there (in West Bengal). They will come here also. We have to appoint judicial officers as returning officers. This is not good development," Justice Srishananda observed while adjourning the hearing to Thursday.

**JUSTICE SRISHANANDA**
High Court Judge

"This is visible. The case has been registered for political pressure. If the same case was registered against Rajegowda, I would have stayed that also. This is nothing but an abuse of process. What is going on? When counting is under the court's direction, necessary precautions are needed. What is this process of making deputy commissioner, agent and all as an accused party? If this is the situation, no officer will work properly.

# Cong must do more for 'Ahinda' to win 2028 polls: Jarkiholi

## He attributes big win in Bagalkot to consolidation of bloc's votes

BENGALURU, DHNS

Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi on Tuesday said mobilising Ahinda (Kannada acronym for minorities, backward classes and Dalits) communities would be a challenge for the Congress in 2028, underlining the need for the party to "protect" its core political constituency.

"The 'Ahinda' vote is the backbone of the party. We need to protect it and ensure justice and power to the Ahinda communities. Our party should do more for the bloc in the next two years. A big challenge is to consolidate this bloc if are to win the 2028 Assembly elections," said Jarkiholi, while attributing the party's win in the Bagalkot bypoll to the support from these communities.

Congress' Umesh Meti, son of late H Y Meti, won the seat by 22,867 votes against BJP's Veeranna Charanthimath. The constituency had fallen vacant following the demise of H Y Meti.

Jarkiholi, speaking to reporters here, also attributed the huge-margin victory to Meti's goodwill among voters, Congress' traditional votes and development work.

"The winning margin in the seat has always been less than 10,000 votes (in 2023, it was 5,878 votes). If not for Ahinda consolidation in Bagalkot, we would not have won the segment with a huge margin. In fact, we managed to attract additional 'Ahinda' votes of the BJP," claimed Jarkiholi, who led a team from Belagavi and campaigned extensively to consolidate the Ahinda vote.

Earlier too, Jarkilholi - who aspires to be the political heir to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the most popular Ahinda leader in the state - had said that the Congress government had failed to deliver on the assurances to Ahinda communities due to "internal resistance".

"The Ahinda movement which evolved over the last 25 years needs a shift in strategy. It should function beyond electoral politics," Jarkiholi had said during the Ahinda convention in Hubballi recently.

# EC, not BJP, won in WB & Assam, says Priyank Kharge

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Information Technology Minister Priyank Kharge on Tuesday said it was the Election Commission (EC), and not the BJP, that won in West Bengal and Assam.

"It's the victory of the Election Commission. You [BJP] have the election commissioner in your pocket. You've completely destroyed the Election Commission's process," Priyank told reporters.

In Assam, the manner in which delimitation was done helped the BJP, Priyank charged. "In West Bengal, where the special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls was done, about one crore people were removed. About 27-28 lakh of them approached tribunals where they got no respite. Aren't they citizens?" Priyank asked.

The SIR influenced the election results in 80-100 constituencies of West Bengal, Priyank said. "What happened in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana repeated in West Bengal and Assam," he said. "It's very clear that the BJP has captured the entire process of electioneering."

Priyank, the son of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, cautioned that a similar attempt would be made in Karnataka. "If the same thing happens in Karnataka, there won't be any surprises," he said.

# Vet college teachers oppose stoppage of non-practising aid

BENGALURU, DHNS

Teachers at the Bengaluru veterinary college have expressed concern over the government's recent directive to stop non-practising allowance (NPA) for veterinary teachers, saying the move has caused severe financial hardship and could trigger protests across campuses.

The KVAFSU teachers' association said the allowance had been paid continuously for the past seven years and was a statutory component meant to discourage veterinary teachers from taking up private practice.

It argued that the NPA is legal, policy-backed and essential to maintain the quality of veterinary education.

**The teachers urged the vice-chancellor, registrar, board of management and the government to intervene and protect their interests.**

Association leaders said many teachers had long-term financial commitments based on the allowance.

They pointed out that several veterinary colleges offer free treatment and disease diagnosis to farmers, making the teaching staff's role vital to animal husbandry and rural welfare.

The association said the university had implemented the NPA only after directions from the government and cited multiple orders issued by the government, finance department, veterinary council and ICAR on the allowance.

It said a representation seeking withdrawal of the government's April 21 directive had not yet received a response. The association warned that if the order was not withdrawn and salaries with NPA were not released, protests would begin on university campuses next week.

The teachers urged the vice-chancellor, registrar, board of management and the government to intervene and protect their interests.

# Will go to Delhi only when high command calls me: Siddu

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said he would visit New Delhi only when he is "called" by the Congress high command.

On speculations over his visit to Delhi post bypoll results, to discuss the reported power transfer deal, Siddaramaiah said, "I will go to Delhi when the high command asks me to."

When reporters asked about MLAs going to Delhi seeking cabinet berths and to support Mallikarjun Kharge for the chief minister's post, Siddaramaiah said, "I am not aware of it. Ask people going to Delhi. Everyone is free to express their opinion. Also, nothing wrong if people are aspiring to be a minister."

Attributing the party's win in bypolls to people's appreciation of the Congress government's programmes, the CM said, "Congress walks the talk. Guarantee schemes have helped us win. We have won five bypolls till now. BJP campaigned saying bypolls are a referendum to the 2028 elections. So, Congress will in 2028 too."

When reporters pointed out Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) wresting Muslim votes in Davangere South, Siddaramaiah said, "Last time too, Muslims had voted for independents. This time, they have voted a little more for the SDPI. Out of 56,000 Muslim votes, Congress has bagged 35,000 votes. The party will inquire into where we faltered and how we lost the votes. The party will take action."

He also justified the disciplinary action taken by the party against MLCs Abdul Jabbar (who was expelled) and Nasir Ahmed (removed as CM's political secretary) citing "anti-party" activities. On the largescale deletion of names in the voters' list following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in West Bengal, Siddaramaiah assured that his government would not give an opportunity (to the Election Commission) to delete the names of genuine voters.

"We will not allow anybody to be targeted and their names to be deleted. The process should be impartial," he added.

## Rain damage: Health dept orders inspection of hospital bldgs

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Health and Family Welfare Department has ordered all district health officers, taluk health officers and nodal officers to inspect hospital buildings that might have been damaged due to rain and could potentially cause harm in the future.

The officers with the engineering wing of the Health and Family Welfare Department have been instructed to make a note of buildings in dilapidated condition and reconstruct them. They have also been asked to mark out buildings that are unoccupied or unused and to demolish them in a safe manner. The officers are also tasked with electrical safety audits of the buildings.

A report should be submitted to the government within 15 days, the order stated.

## PHC found locked during minister's visit, doctor suspended

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** A general duty medical officer was suspended for violating rules during the visit by MLA and Textiles and Sugarcane Development Minister Shivanand Patil to a primary healthcare centre in Basavana Bagewadi, Vijayapura district.

During the visit, Patil found that the PHC was locked prompting the suspension of Dr Rajashekar Sajjan.

The order said that Sajjan was found in violation of duty rules, while causing disruption in the treatment to senior citizens, patients and people with disability. During the period of suspension, he will be serving as the general duty officer in Budikote in Bangarpet taluk of Kolar district. Sajjan is prohibited from leaving the district without prior permission.

# Late census kits, missing maps hit enumeration in several districts

BENGALURU, DHNS

The delay in providing census kits to enumerators has caused technical errors in the ongoing census work across several districts.

Supervisors said some enumerators wrongly mapped houses as no map was provided when the work began. By the time kits reached enumerators, 50% of the work had been completed. The kit contains a permanent marker, hat, bag, identity card holder with a tag, and, most importantly, a map.

"When the work began on April 15, kits were not available in many districts, which forced enumerators to do undertake enumeration without the map. That has caused the problem," a supervisor said.

Supervisors said mapping wasn't properly explained during training. Some enumerators marked households as locked and are not revisiting them.

"There is a perception among some enumerators that if they complete the assigned work, they will be given another area. This is why some are not updating houses marked as locked," a supervisor said. They are now visiting such houses themselves and asking enumerators to update data on app.

Enumerators spoke of difficulties faced during field visits. Citizens are reluctant to share details.

"I was asked as to how many times such surveys are done in a year. It is not easy to convince them that the earlier two were different," said a teacher working as an enumerator.

"We also struggling to visit houses in the scorching sun. Many are visiting between 4.50 pm and 7.30 pm," another teacher said. The kits reached many districts a week after enumeration commenced.

COLLISION CONTROL

# BIAL rolls out smart airside safety system at KIA

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has introduced an integrated Smart Airside Safety System at the Kempegowda International Airport, aimed at improving real-time surveillance, reducing collision risks and strengthening operational safety in critical airside zones.

The system has been deployed at cross service roads, where aircraft and ground vehicle movements intersect and where precise coordination is essential for safe airport operations.

BIAL said the new setup combines AI-based computer vision, intelligent automation and centralised monitoring to manage right-of-way more efficiently.

According to airport sources, cross service roads are among the most sensitive points in airside operations. Until now, right-of-way protection at these intersections depended largely on manual or semi-manual activation of inset lights, a process that involved human intervention and could lead to delays or operational gaps.

The new system uses real-time situational intelligence to detect vehicle movement, assess risk and automate signalling.

BIAL's new smart airside safety system uses AI-enabled cameras and automated signals to enhance safety at Cross Service Roads at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru.

AI-enabled cameras monitor CSR intersections, identify potential conflicts, detect non-compliant movement and confirm zone clearance in real time.

Based on these inputs, the system automatically activates inset lights to protect aircraft movement and restores normal signalling once the intersection is clear.

BIAL said the platform also maintains a digital record of all events through a centralised analytics system, improving governance, compliance and operational control.

By reducing dependence on manual intervention, the system is expected to lower the chances of human error, especially during night operations and low-visibility conditions.

The sources said the automation would improve traffic flow, reduce unnecessary stoppages and help quicken turnaround times for aircraft and ground vehicles.

In addition, the system is expected to create a foundation for predictive safety analytics, including trend analysis, peak-hour optimisation and risk forecasting.

# Cabinet okays four more judges for SC

## Rise in number of judges to allow court function efficiently and effectively

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday decided to raise the strength of judges in the Supreme Court from 33 to 37, excluding the Chief Justice of India.

In a meeting, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it approved the proposal for introducing the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 in Parliament to amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 to increase the number of judges of the Supreme Court of India by four from the present 33 to 37 (excluding the Chief Justice of India).

According to a statement, the increase in the number of judges will allow the Supreme Court to function more efficiently and effectively, ensuring speedy justice.

It said that the expenditure on the salaries of Judges and supporting staff and other facilities will be met from the Consolidated Fund of India.

Article 124 (1) in the Constitution provided "There shall be a Supreme Court of India consisting of a Chief Justice of India and, until Parliament by law prescribes a larger number, of not more than seven other Judges...".

An act to increase the strength of the judges of the Supreme Court was enacted in 1956 by the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act 1956. Section 2 of the Act provided for the maximum number of Judges (excluding the Chief Justice of India) to be 10.

The strength of judges of the Supreme Court was increased to 13 by the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 1960, and to 17 by the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 1977.

The working strength of the SC was, however, restricted to 15 Judges by the Cabinet, excluding the Chief Justice of India, till the end of 1979, when the restriction was withdrawn at the request of the CJI.

The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 1986, further augmented the judges' strength of the SC, excluding the Chief Justice of India, from 17 to 25.

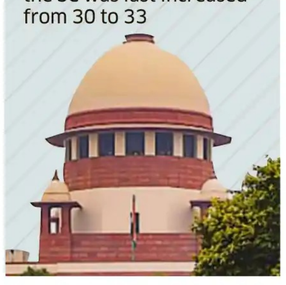
The judges' strength of the SC was last increased from 30 to 33.

### Judicial hiring

Cabinet approves the proposal for introducing the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026

**EXPENDITURE ON THE SALARIES OF JUDGES AND SUPPORTING STAFF WILL BE MET FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND OF INDIA.**

The judges' strength of the SC was last increased from 30 to 33



# The ally trap: Why regional parties risk irrelevance with BJP

## Leaders say BJP uses their goodwill to build organisation, then takes control

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI

Regional parties that have tactically supported the BJP and have not mobilised strongly behind an anti-BJP bloc have faced electoral reverses, with some even facing irrelevance over a period of time.

Only recently, the Opposition pointed out to the JD(U), which ceded the chief minister's post to the saffron party in Bihar, claiming that those who align with the BJP will eventually lose out. It even warned the TDP in Andhra Pradesh and AIADMK in Tamil Nadu, both NDA allies.

Opposition leaders claim that the BJP manages entry into states where it does not have a stake with the help of regional parties that place themselves against the dominant party, especially Congress.

However, they claimed the BJP would slowly use the "goodwill" the ally enjoys to build its organisation and take over the reins once it is in a position to sidestep the ally. A senior leader pointed out the "patience" that spanned over almost 25 years, the BJP showed in Bihar to outwit JD(U).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and BJP national president Nitin Nabin during an event celebrating the party's performance in Assembly elections in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

The leader said the Trinamool Congress also should be blamed for the BJP's finding a foothold in West Bengal, as in its quest for ousting the Left in the state, it allied with the saffron camp, though it eventually came out of it.

The Trinamool also, the leader said, played the individual game to show its independence from the Congress, the Opposition bloc leader. At crucial junctures, the leader said, the Trinamool gave the BJP a handle and referred to an incident soon after Lok Sabha results.

When all I.N.D.I.A parties decided to seek seating in Lok Sabha as a bloc, the leader said, Trinamool wrote to Speaker Om Birla asking him to consider it as a separate bloc. The reasoning was that it was not an electoral ally of the Congress and did not want it to take the lead.

Opposition leaders also point to parties like BRS and YSR Congress, which did not officially ally with the NDA but helped it in crucial junctures in Parliament and also saw the BJP emerging as one pole in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

### Political coup

BJP allies like Akali Dal in Punjab and BJD in Odisha had also faced similar experiences, though in the former, the saffron party is yet to gain a larger pie, though it had a political coup when it managed to get seven Rajya Sabha MPs to its fold.

Parties like AGP in Assam and MGP in Goa also had to play second fiddle to the BJP after giving it space in their states.

# C'garh: Power bank catches fire inside IndiGo plane

**CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI, PTI:** All passengers and the crew aboard a stationary IndiGo aircraft at the Chandigarh airport were evacuated on Tuesday after the power bank of a passenger onboard the aircraft caught fire, according to a source.

In a statement, the airline said that an incident involving a customer's personal electronic equipment catching fire was reported when IndiGo flight 6E 108 from Hyderabad to Chandigarh was stationary after landing.

"In the interest of safety, an immediate evacuation was carried out, and all the relevant authorities were immediately informed. All customers have been safely moved to the terminal and are being attended to by the team to ensure their well-being," the statement said.

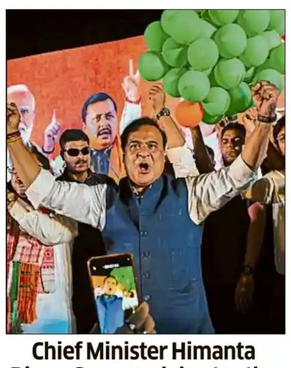
# How BJP's AI-driven campaign worked the polls in Assam

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

The results of the Assam Assembly elections aligned with the BJP's frequent claim that Hindus and indigenous communities backed the saffron party, while only Muslims favoured the Opposition Congress.

That claim got a boost as 18 of the 19 Congress winners were Muslim candidates, while the BJP raised its tally from 60 seats in 2021 to 82 in the 126-member Assembly. Party insiders say Hindu voters shifted to the BJP due to the Congress' consistent opposition to Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's actions against 'Miyas', or Bengali-speaking Muslims.

BJP leaders repeatedly sought to corner the Congress by branding it a 'Miya party', while a surrogate social media army amplified the narrative through a planned campaign using AI-generated visuals and other online tools over the past two years. The campaign mainly targeted Congress state president Gaurav Gogoi and a few others, attempting to cement the label of 'Miya Party' on the Opposition.



Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma celebrates the BJP's victory in the Assam Assembly election. AFP

"Two targeted campaigns via smaller portals, influencers, and shadow handles labelling Gaurav as 'Paaijan', or someone close to Pakistan, proved very useful," a source in the BJP's social media campaign team said.

The so-called 'Paaijan Campaign' was conducted amid CM Sarma's allegations that Gaurav and his wife Elizabeth, a British national, had links with Pakistan. A Special Investigation Team was constituted by the Sarma government, and the Centre was approached for a probe by a central agency. Gaurav rejected the charges, calling them a "smear campaign" against his family and the Congress.

BJP's surrogate social media army also sought to brand other Congress leaders and commentators as 'Miya Lovers' or part of a 'Miya IT Cell', targeting them through online posts and AI-generated visuals.

"The poll results seem to show that this campaign helped the party strengthen its narrative against the Congress and secure a historic third straight term," said a BJP leader.

# Akhilesh's *Hanuman Chalisa* post draws fire from rivals

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

An otherwise innocuous post containing a picture of Lord Hanuman and couplets from the 'Hanuman Chalisa', shared on the occasion of 'Bada Mangal' (a festival dedicated to Lord Hanuman) by Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, has triggered widespread reactions among rivals and netizens.

Akhilesh Yadav

While Akhilesh's rivals and some others sought to portray the post as an attempt by the SP leader to shed his perceived 'pro-Muslim' image, and said it reflected the 'impact' of the West Bengal Assembly polls, party leaders maintained that he shared such posts every year.

The choice of couplets shared with the picture—"Sab sukh lahe tumhari saran, tum rakshak kahu ko darna, Sankat te Hanuman chudawai, man kram vachan dhyan jo lawe" (All who seek your refuge receive every comfort and have nothing to fear if you are the protector... Hanuman can save us in times of crisis if one keeps him in mind and deeds)—further fuelled the reactions.

"Akhilesh seems to be learning lessons from the Bengal Assembly poll results," remarked a BJP leader here.

He, however, said there was no use now reciting the 'Hanuman Chalisa', as Lord Hanuman knew well who his 'true' disciples were.

An SP leader, however, claimed that Akhilesh shared such posts on this occasion every year and decried what he termed an attempt to find a religious angle in everything.

Some netizens also sought to link the post to the Bengal Assembly poll results.

Akhilesh's reported remarks recently on 'cow shelters' and 'Mahakumbh' had invited sharp criticism from the BJP.

# Won't quit, lost due to conspiracy, claims Mamata

Mamata, From Page 1

The tenure of the Council of Ministers would also come to its end that day, even if the TMC supremo stuck to her decision not to resign.

"Everything is written in the Constitution (of India). I need not say much on this," BJP's Suvendu Adhikari, who defeated Mamata in her home constituency, Bhabanipur in Kolkata, said on her refusal to resign as the chief minister.

Mamata condemned the violent attacks on the TMC offices, its leaders and its workers, allegedly by the BJP workers, on Monday and Tuesday. "I am a street fighter. I will remain on the streets and fight all atrocities," said the 71-year-old leader.

The BJP won 207 of the 293 constituencies. The TMC could win only 80 seats.

Mamata said she had been kicked in her "belly and back" inside the counting centre of Bhabanipur on Monday.

"The CCTV was off. I was pushed out of the counting station," she alleged, adding: "The central paramilitary forces personnel deployed at the counting centre behaved like goons," she alleged, adding that she, despite being a candidate, had initially not been allowed to enter the counting centre.

"We were not fighting the BJP; we were fighting the Election Commission, which was working for the BJP. I have never seen such an election in my entire political career," Mamata said on Tuesday, alleging that at least 100 seats had been "looted" by the saffron party with the help of the EC. She accused the EC of deliberately slowing down the process to break the morale of the TMC candidates, counting agents and workers.

"A black chapter in history has been created," said the TMC leader, criticising Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar for his alleged bias for the BJP.

# Centre hikes sugarcane fair price; to benefit 1 crore farmers

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre on Tuesday approved an increase in the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane by Rs 10 to Rs 365 per quintal for the 2026-27 sugar season beginning October.

The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The new FRP is for a basic recovery rate of 10.25%."For every 0.1% increase in recovery above 10.25%, FRP rises by Rs 3.56 per quintal," Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters after the meeting.

The minister said the FRP is now 200.5% of the all-India weighted average cost of production. Sugar mills are required to purchase sugarcane from farmers at the FRP or a higher price.

The government expects the hike to benefit nearly one crore sugarcane farmers, with total payments to them exceeding Rs 1 lakh crore in the coming season. It will also support farm labourers and ensure the continued operations of sugar mills, providing livelihood to around 5 lakh workers in sugar factories and ancillary industries.

The Centre hiked sugarcane fair price by Rs 10 to Rs 365 per quintal for 2026-27 season. DH FILE PHOTO

The move is expected to help maintain a steady domestic sugar supply and boost ethanol production from surplus sugarcane.

The FRP is fixed annually based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. The government noted that the FRP for sugarcane has been raised every year over the last decade.

### Cotton productivity

The Cabinet also approved a Rs 5,659.22 crore Mission for Cotton Productivity for the period 2026–27 to 2030–31 to address declining growth and boost cotton productivity.

India's cotton production stood at 291 lakh bales (of 170 kg each) during the 2025-26 crop year (July-June), according to the latest government estimate.

The new mission aims to significantly ramp up output and farmer incomes through technology, better seeds, and value chain improvements.The initiative is aligned with the government's 5F vision (Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign), a statement from the government said.

It will focus on developing high-yielding variety (HYV) seeds that are resistant to diseases and pests, along with large-scale adoption of modern crop production technologies through state governments, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), the statement added.

The mission seeks to raise lint productivity from the current 440 kg per hectare to 755 kg per hectare by 2031, with a target production of 498 lakh bales (170 kg lint each). It is expected to benefit around 32 lakh cotton farmers and promote self-reliance in the sector.

The Mission will be implemented jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and the Ministry of Textiles.

In the initial phase, the focus will be on 140 districts across 14 states and around 2,000 ginning and processing factories.

# Never pulled out of RR bid: Somani-led group

RR sale, From Page 1

"We are deeply disappointed not to be part of the Rajasthan Royals ownership group, following a long six-month process in which we were the lead bid from start to finish," the consortium stated in a press release on Tuesday.

"Contrary to stories that have been planted in the press, our group was and has always been fully funded, prepared to close with certainty, and never withdrew our bid."

The group added that it had the documentation in place and was told that the franchise's board meeting on April 2 was held to approve its bid.

"In the end this was never the case. We approached this process with the highest standards of honesty, integrity, professionalism and in good faith, but unfortunately that wasn't enough.

"We do not believe the outcome ultimately reflected a level playing field, and it is difficult to reconcile the strength of our bid and preparedness to close with the final decision," it said.

According to a release from the Mittals, the family would own approximately 75% of Royals with Poonawalla holding around 18%.

Approved existing investors, including Manoj Badale, would own the remaining approximately 7%.

# Vijay to stake claim to form govt, may get Cong support

Vijay, From Page 1

"We will have about 15 days' to prove our strength. We are hopeful of getting support from smaller parties," the source added.

In his first comments after the victory, Vijay thanked the people for demonstrating "political victory for change" which many said was impossible.

"At this moment, I also send my love to our own people who forgot to vote for us in this election but will love us more in the coming times," he added.

Leaders of Left parties said they have not received any communication from TVK but said they would take a call if the invitation is received.

Though no Congress MLAs met outgoing CM M K Stalin on Tuesday, the party's decision to lob the ball into the court of the state Congress comes even as it does not want to appear to be ditching DMK at this moment as also to negotiate with TVK on the contours of the support, including the possibility of joining the government.

The decision came at a meeting chaired by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and attended by Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, General Secretaries K C Venugopal and Jairam Ramesh and Tamil Nadu in-charge Girish Chodankar.

The Congress is "determined not to have the BJP and its proxies run a government in Tamil Nadu", he said, adding that Vijay has also spoken about drawing inspiration from "Perumthalaivar (great leader)" K Kamaraj.

Congress sources said it cannot push Vijay to the saffron camp. Before the elections, a section in the Congress had argued for going with TVK, which had offered around 75 seats to the party and slots in the government.

Congress leaders like Manickam Tagore and Praveen Chakraborty were batting for this change as DMK was not inclined to share power.

Rahul was also said to be inclined to take a new road in Tamil Nadu during the elections but Kharge and other senior leaders counseled against dumping DMK.

# BJP meets Guv, accuses Speaker of delaying oath...

Sringeri, From Page 1

"There hasn't been any delay. We got the information yesterday morning. I was in the office till the afternoon, but no one met me. Today, I have come to my constituency (Mangalore), and they have submitted a letter to my office. After checking my schedule, I will do it."

Pointing out that Congress' Samarth Shamanur and Umesh Meti emerged victorious in the by-elections to the Davanagere South and Bagalkot Assembly constituencies, respectively, the Speaker said he was exploring options of administering the oath to all three at the same time, if they agree.

"I have spoken to both Ashoka and Jeevaraj. They can ask me, but cannot issue directions to me as to when I have to administer the oath. It's wrong to complain to the Governor. This is not good practice in the parliamentary democracy system."

*DH* has learnt that all three are considered MLAs from the day the result is declared, and can claim their salaries also from the same day. The administering of the oath is a prerequisite to enter the Assembly as MLAs.

# PIL has become 'publicity, paisa, political' interest litigation: SC

PIL, From Page 1

The bench also observed that the CJI receives hundreds of letters daily, questioning whether they could all be turned into PILs.

The bench observed that the PIL was an "abuse of process of law" and the association should work for the bar and the welfare of its younger members rather than filing such PILs.

The counsel argued that the association was not challenging the faith of Lord Ayyappa's devotees but was upholding it.

Further posing questions, Justice Nagarathna asked, "How does a juristic body like yours have a belief? This is for an individual. You don't have a conscience."

Justice Kumar also asked, "Has your organisation passed a resolution to file a PIL? Has your president signed it?"

The bench also asked who the president of the organisation is. Gupta replied, "The President is Naushad Ali."

"How is he a believer? How are you concerned with all this? You please tell us," Justice Nagarathna said.

The CJI also asked, "Are you the chief priest of the country?" "Young Lawyers' Association has no other business? They can't work for the welfare of the Bar, or assist the bench or for the legal system of the country? Other than doing this kind of work?... Work for the Bar, work for younger members, work for their welfare. Those who are struggling in the country from rural areas... they have difficulty coming to the cities to argue cases. They are brilliant minds. Work for them, rather than doing this kind of work in the Supreme Court."

## ♦ WEATHER ♦

**Overview:** Rainfall occurred at one or two places over South Interior and Dry weather prevailed over Coastal & North Interior Karnataka.
**Forecast May 6:** Partly Cloudy sky becoming generally cloudy sky towards evening/night.

**INTERIOR NORTH**

| Stations | Max | Min | Rain |
|---|---|---|---|
| Belagavi | 36.2 | 20.6 | 0.0 |
| Bidar | 43.0 | 21.6 | 0.0 |
| Vijayapura | 39.5 | 22.6 | 0.0 |
| Dharwad | 37.5 | 21.0 | 0.0 |
| Haveri | 36.0 | 22.4 | 0.0 |
| Kalaburagi | 41.1 | 27.0 | 0.0 |
| Raichur | 40.0 | 25.4 | 0.0 |
| **COASTAL** | | | |
| Honnavar | 34.4 | 24.5 | 0.0 |
| Karwar | 37.2 | 26.4 | 0.0 |
| Shirali | NA | NA | NA |
| Mangaluru | 34.6 | 29.5 | 0.0 |

**INTERIOR SOUTH**

| Stations | Max | Min | Rain |
|---|---|---|---|
| Agumbe | 34.0 | 22.5 | 0.0 |
| Bengaluru | 33.4 | 23.5 | tr |
| Ballari | NA | NA | NA |
| Chamarajanagar | -- | -- | -- |
| Chikkamagaluru | -- | -- | -- |
| Chitradurga | 36.1 | 22.8 | 0.0 |
| Davangere | 37.5 | 22.0 | 0.0 |
| Hassan | -- | -- | -- |
| Mysuru | 35.4 | 21.2 | 0.0 |
| Madikeri | -- | -- | -- |
| Kolar | 34.0 | 22.0 | 0.0 |

**OTHER STATIONS**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| New Delhi | 34.0 | 23.0 | NIL |
| Kolkata | 33.0 | 27.0 | NIL |
| Mumbai | 33.0 | 28.0 | NA |
| Chennai | 33.0 | 28.0 | NA |
| Pune | 38.0 | 22.0 | NA |
| Hyderabad | 36.0 | 25.0 | NA |
| Th'puram | 32.0 | 27.0 | NIL |

**BENGAL TOP POST:** Names of Samik Bhattacharya, Dilip Ghosh, Swapan Dasgupta do the rounds

# Adhikari leads, but speculation swirls over CM pick

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

Suvendu Adhikari has emerged as the frontrunner to lead the BJP government in West Bengal, though saffron circles are abuzz with speculation about other contenders, including state party chief Samik Bhattacharya, former national vice president Dilip Ghosh and columnist-cum-politician Swapan Dasgupta.

There is also speculation that the BJP top brass may consider Anandamay Barman, re-elected from Matigara-Naxalbari in North Bengal, for the top post. The party secured 40 of 54 seats in North Bengal in the just-concluded elections, surpassing its previous record of 30 seats in 2021.

Adhikari, who served as Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, has emerged as the BJP's most prominent face in West Bengal over the past five years since defecting from the Trinamool Congress. When Union Home Minister Amit Shah flew in from New Delhi to join him in a roadshow ahead of his nomination against TMC supremo and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Bhabanipur, Adhikari was widely seen as the BJP's de facto chief ministerial candidate for the rest of the campaign.

Since December 2020, Adhikari has worn Hindutva on his sleeve, becoming Mamata's most vocal critic, particularly on the issue of alleged appeasement of Muslims by the TMC government.

Though he has emerged as the frontrunner to succeed Mamata, his defection from the TMC could prove a stumbling block, given his uneasy relations with BJP old guards such as Dilip Ghosh, who won from Kharagpur Sadar.

Dilip Ghosh led the BJP as its party chief during the polls, when the saffron party established itself as the principal challenger to the TMC. But as Adhikari's stature rose within the party, Ghosh was gradually sidelined.

A long-time BJP leader with RSS roots, Samik Bhattacharya has steadily climbed the party ranks. Known for his ideological clarity and acceptability across factions, he has played a key role in strengthening the organisation in urban and semi-urban regions.

Dasgupta, a former Rajya Sabha MP, is also being seen as a contender. An intellectual and political commentator before entering active politics, Dasgupta has been associated with the BJP's ideological ecosystem for years and won from Rashbehari.

### EC issues notification

**The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday issued a notification for the constitution of a new assembly in West Bengal following the completion of the electoral process in the state.**

**The notification has been sent to the West Bengal governor formally marking the end of the election cycle and setting the stage for the formation of a new government.**

A worker paints over a Trinamool Congress office after BJP won the West Bengal Assembly elections, in Kolkata, on Tuesday. PTI

## Four killed in poll aftermath

**KOLKATA, DHNS:** At least four supporters of the Trinamool Congress and the BJP were killed as the Assembly election results, indicating an imminent regime change in West Bengal, were followed by reports of incidents of violence from across the state.

The BJP alleged two workers of the party were killed by the TMC goons in New Town in Kolkata and in Udaynarayanpur in Howrah. The TMC, on the other hand, alleged that its two workers were killed at Nanur in Birbhum and Beleghata in Kolkata.

The TMC was routed by the BJP in the elections. The state had seen such political clashes after the 2021 elections, too, after the TMC beat the BJP.

Several TMC offices across the state, including Baruipur, Kamarhati, Baranagar, Tollygunge, Kasba, and Panihati, were either vandalised, set on fire, or taken over, allegedly by the BJP workers.

A video was circulated online, showing a bulldozer being brought in during a victory procession by the BJP workers, allegedly to demolish a TMC office and nearby meat shops.

"In central Kolkata, near New Market. With police permission. As part of the victory celebrations, a bulldozer was brought in to demolish meat shops. (The personnel of the) CAPF (Central Armed Police Force) standing around. THE BJP FOR YOU. Let the world see these pictures," Derek O'Brien wrote on X.

Outgoing Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee condemned "atrocities" on her party workers. She constituted a fact-finding committee to visit the areas where the party workers and supporters came under attack.

Samik Bhattacharya, the Bengal BJP chief, urged the state administration to act firmly against perpetrators of post-poll violence irrespective of political affiliation.

## West Bengal CM Mamata has no option but to go: Experts

NEW DELHI, PTI

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee must resign following her defeat in the assembly polls or the governor can dismiss her, experts said on Tuesday after she refused to step down.

Some of the experts said that Banerjee's term as the chief minister would automatically come to an end the moment a new person takes over after being invited by the governor to form the government. Also, they noted, her term and that of the outgoing Assembly will end on May 7.

Constitution expert and former Lok Abha secretary general P D T Achary said that Banerjee has no option but to go after a new CM is sworn in. "Because there cannot be two chief ministers in a state," he said.

Senior advocate Ajit Sinha said once the new chief minister takes over, "she is deemed to be out of the office".

Achary also underlined that she was elected to the outgoing legislative assembly. Its term ends on May 7. "As per constitutional provisions, a government is accountable to the legislature. Once the term ends, the government too has to go," he noted.

The only provision for her to stay is when the governor asks the government to continue for a few days, he said.

Banerjee, in her first media interaction after the BJP defeated her Trinamool Congress (TMC), ruled out stepping down as CM and dared the constitutional functionary to take action.

Outgoing CM Mamata Banerjee joins hands with party leaders during a presser in Kolkata. PTI

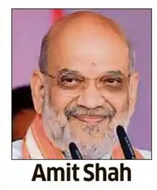
Addressing a press conference, Banerjee alleged large-scale irregularities in the counting process, claiming that the mandate in nearly 100 seats "was looted" and that counting was deliberately slowed down to demoralise her party. "The question of my resignation does not arise, as we were defeated not by a public mandate but by a conspiracy," she said.

Asked about constitutional or legal options available to the West Bengal governor owing to Banerjee's assertion, senior advocate and constitutional law expert Rakesh Dwivedi said political morality and constitutional discipline demand that she resign.

"But, in any case, there is a new legislative assembly elected and soon some BJP leader would stake a claim and would be appointed CM by the governor. The governor will dismiss her if she doesn't resign," Dwivedi said.

## BJP appoints Shah, Nadda as observers to Bengal, Assam

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** After the party registered a stellar win in West Bengal and broke electoral records in Assam, the BJP appointed Union Home Minister Amit Shah as the observer to Bengal and former party president JP Nadda as the observer to Assam.



Amit Shah

JP Nadda

Shah will be assisted in his job by Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Manjhi, while Nadda will have as co-observer Nayab Singh Saini, the Chief Minister of Haryana.

While it remains unclear who will be the new CM in West Bengal, party sources said that the oath-taking ceremony is likely to take place on May 9.

While names are doing the rounds, sources said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold a meeting with Shah, party president Nitin Nabin and the party's national Parliamentary Board in the next few days to decide on the CM and other members of the Council of Ministers.

The BJP alone won 207 seats in West Bengal and 82 seats in Assam. This will be the first BJP government in Bengal, the state from where Syama Prasad Mookerjee, the founder of the saffron party's precursor, Jana Sangh, belonged.

Vijay pays tribute to party's ideological leaders. PTI

## Full circle for Vijay

▸ **CHENNAI, DHNS:** Life came full circle for C Joseph Vijay on Monday. He visited Loyola College, his alma mater, to collect the certificate of election as a legislator from Perambur. Some 30 years ago, when he did his BSc (Visual Communication) from the same college, he could not collect his degree certificate as he discontinued his studies.

## Vedasandur bucks the trend

▸ **CHENNAI, DHNS:** Vedasandur Assembly constituency in Dindigul district has bucked the trend for the first time in 69 years. It was a bellwether constituency since the 1957 election, where the party that won Vedasandur went on to form the government in Tamil Nadu. But this time, DMK's T Saminathan won the seat, but TVK will form the government.

## Dissent grows in CPM, CPI after Kerala poll rout

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Resentment within the CPM as well as the CPI in Kerala over the rout faced by the Left Democratic Front in the Assembly polls has begun to surface.

While CPM senior leader from Kannur and state committee member P Jayarajan fired the first salvo through a social media post, poster campaigns against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and CPM state secretary M V Govindan have appeared in Kannur, seeking a leadership change.

The CPM suffered one of its worst defeats ever, winning only 26 of the 77 seats it contested. The LDF's total tally also fell to 35 from 99.

A flex board appeared at Kolayad in Kannur seeking a leadership change. It projects P Jayarajan and former MLA and state secretariat member M Swaraj as future leaders of the party.

Jayarajan said in a social media post that unless the degeneration caused to communists while engaging in parliamentary politics was corrected, the party would lose the trust of the people. He also said that criticisms and opinions of party supporters should be taken seriously by the leadership.

The CPI also suffered a major blow, winning only eight seats, and stressed the need for introspection. An in-depth analysis is required to understand why the Communist parties are losing even in their strongholds. Corrective measures are needed to ensure that the parties remain relevant, an editorial in the CPI mouthpiece 'Janayugam' said.

Meanwhile, there are reports that Vijayan may stay away from the Leader of the Opposition post by taking moral responsibility for the electoral debacle. Instead, former finance minister K N Balagopal could be considered for the role.

Pinarayi, who reached Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday from Kannur, did not use his official vehicle.

The party leadership will meet soon to discuss the election outcome and future measures.

## Tough task ahead for Congress in Kerala with 3 top contenders for CM post

### Team of observers to assess MLAs' choice in state

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Congress is getting into hectic negotiations to decide on its chief minister in Kerala, where the party has returned to power, but the exercise is not going to be an easy one with top contenders KC Venugopal, VD Satheesan and Ramesh Chennithala unlikely to make space for their inner-party rival.

Venugopal, Congress General Secretary (Organisation), reached Delhi and was closeted with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, but sources said Kerala affairs did not come up for discussion as the leaders were engaged in deciding on the question of supporting Vijay-led TVK in Tamil Nadu.

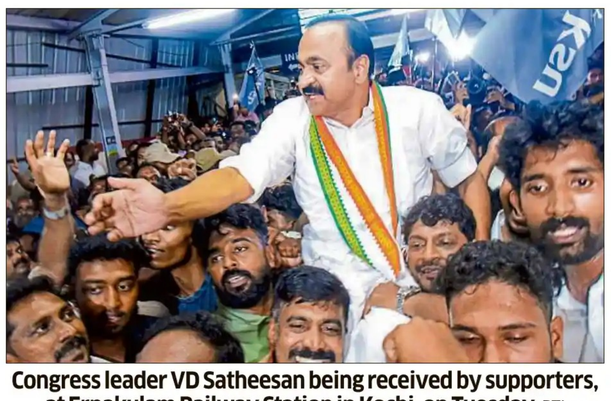
With Venugopal indicating that he would not be part of the central leadership's discussions on Kerala, sources said Kharge and Rahul will soon make a decision on sending observers to the state to find out the mind of newly-elected MLAs and their preference for chief minister.

The two top leaders will also finalise the procedure for selecting the leader of the Legislature Party, and they are expected to take the call by Wednesday. The team of observers going to Kerala is likely to get the legislature party to pass a resolution authorising the central leadership to finalise the name for the chief minister.

In addition to the four-member observer team led by senior leader KJ George and general secretary Sachin Pilot, another senior leader may also be appointed to go to Kerala. Imran Pratapgarhi and Kanhaiya Kumar are the other two observers.

Sources said Venugopal would not give up his claim for the chief minister's post, and he believes that the majority of the 63 Congress MLAs will prefer him.

However, Satheesan, the outgoing leader of the opposition in Kerala, and Chennithala, a former state president and home minister, also will not be budging on their demand that they be given the prime slot in Kerala's administration.



Congress leader VD Satheesan being received by supporters, at Ernakulam Railway Station in Kochi, on Tuesday. PTI

KC Venugopal

Ramesh Chennithala

### Popularity, seniority, clout

**Opposition leader VD Satheesan's camp is highlighting the popularity he gained by leading 'Team UDF' to a historic win with 102 seats. The rousing reception he received on Tuesday, where party workers hailed him as 'CM', is something AICC decision-makers may find hard to ignore, reports DHNS.**

**While former Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala seeks to cash in on his seniority, supporters of KC Venugopal argue that he enjoys the backing of a majority of elected members. He also enjoys clout among top leaders, including Rahul Gandhi.**

## US Prez Trump congratulates PM on 'historic' Bengal win

**WASHINGTON, PTI:** US President Donald Trump has congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his "historic and decisive" election victory, a White House spokesman said on Tuesday.

Donald Trump

"Just last month on their phone call, President Trump expressed to Prime Minister Modi his admiration and how lucky India is to have him as its leader," White House Spokesman Kush Desai said.

"The President congratulates Prime Minister Modi on this recent, historic, and decisive election victory," he added.

On Monday, the BJP scripted history by securing more than two-thirds majority in the West Bengal assembly polls, ending the 15-year rule of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

The party also retained Assam for a third term by winning 82 seats alone in the 126-member Assembly.

## Over 100 Muslim MLAs elected, none from BJP

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

At least 104, or 14.36%, of the 723 MLAs elected in the latest round of Assembly polls across four states and one Union Territory are Muslims, but the BJP, which stormed back to power in Assam and ousted the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, has none from the minority community.

Of these, 31 are on the ruling side in Kerala (30) and Tamil Nadu (1).

In none of the poll-bound states and the UT — West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry—does Muslim representation in the Assembly match their population share, except in Kerala.

In West Bengal, where Muslims make up 27.01% of the population according to the 2011 Census and the BJP ran a high-pitched campaign on "infiltrators", only 40 of the 293 MLAs elected this time (13.65%) are Muslims. The election to the Falta constituency will be held later this month. The TMC accounts for 34 Muslim MLAs out of its 80, while both Congress MLAs and the lone CPM MLA are from the minority community. AJUP (2) and ISF (1) also have only Muslim MLAs.

In Assam, where the BJP campaigned aggressively against 'Miyas', 18 of the 19 Congress MLAs are Muslims.

One of the two Raijor Dal MLAs, the lone Trinamool Congress MLA and two AIUDF MLAs in Assam—where Muslims make up 34.22% of the population—are also from the minority community.

In Kerala, the ruling coalition accounts for 30 of the 35 Muslim MLAs. The Congress has 8 and the IUML 22, while the Opposition has four Muslim MLAs from the CPM and one from the CPI. Muslims form 26.56% of Kerala's population. Tamil Nadu has seven MLAs out of 234 from the community—one each from the TVK and Congress, 2 from the Muslim League, and 3 from the DMK.

**POWER PATHS**

## Two stars, two different scripts

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The stunning electoral debut of TVK chief Vijay in Tamil Nadu has sent ripples beyond the state's borders, sparking a lively debate in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh over the contrasting political journeys of two South Indian film stars—Vijay and Andhra's Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

Both actors command enormous fan followings in their respective states. Both took the plunge into politics. Yet the paths they chose and the outcomes those paths delivered could not be more different.

Vijay

Pawan Kalyan

When Pawan Kalyan launched the Jana Sena and entered the electoral arena in the 2019 Assembly elections, the results were sobering. He lost both seats he contested, and of the 140 constituencies where the Jana Sena fielded candidates, only Razole returned a victory. By 2024, however, he had recalibrated his strategy, playing a pivotal role in forging an alliance between the warring TDP and BJP. The Jana Sena contested 21 seats, won all 21, and achieved a rare 100% strike rate.

Vijay, three years younger than Pawan Kalyan and far less seasoned in politics, chose a starkly different path. Despite reported pressure from national parties, including the BJP, to enter a pre-poll alliance, he stood firm and went it alone. The gamble paid off spectacularly. TVK's debut performance dealt a serious blow to both the ruling DMK and the Opposition AIADMK, positioning Vijay as a frontrunner for the chief minister's post.

The contrast has not been lost on observers or netizens. Social media in Andhra Pradesh was flooded with memes suggesting that Pawan Kalyan had either missed an opportunity or was unwilling to take the kind of risk Vijay embraced in Tamil Nadu. Pawan Kalyan himself has repeatedly acknowledged that capturing power without organisational muscle, media backing, and strong alliances is an uphill task—a candid admission now being held up against Vijay's solo success.

What has particularly unsettled Jana Sena's cadre is Pawan Kalyan's public declarations that the party will remain alongside the TDP and BJP for 15 years, a stance that has drawn discontent within the ranks.

## Stalin visits Kolathur; knives out in DMK over his loss

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Displaying an infatigable spirit, DMK President M K Stalin on Tuesday visited Kolathur here, a day after he suffered an upset defeat from this assembly constituency, which elected him for three terms since 2011.

The visit came even as knives were out in the DMK on Stalin's loss, with a former MLA and councillor seeking action against outgoing HR&CE minister P K Sekarbabu for alleged lapses.

As Stalin visited Kolathur, scores of DMK cadres turned emotional and began crying in front of him, unable to bear his loss. Stalin consoled them and asked them not to lose heart, even as Sekarbabu, who accompanied the DMK President, also broke down at one point.

"I could not sleep last night, and my leader's (Stalin) image kept coming back. He is someone who never wished ill for anyone. Success and defeat are common in elections, but every DMK cadre will sleep peacefully only when action is taken against those who were responsible for not ensuring the victory of the leader who criss-crossed the state," I Paranthaman, a former DMK MLA, said.

DMK chief M K Stalin holds a roadshow during a visit to the Kolathur constituency on Tuesday. PTI

Paranthaman also questioned Sekarbabu, in charge of the constituency, as to why Stalin didn't win elections from Kolathur. "He doesn't have any shame in showing himself up before the leader after not ensuring his defeat," the former MLA added.

### 'Will bounce back'

In a social media post, Stalin said the DMK will act as a "responsible opposition" inside and outside the Tamil Nadu Assembly and asked cadres not to lose heart as electoral defeats are not new to the DMK. "We will bounce back. The difference in vote share between the party that won and us is a mere 4%," he said, without naming TVK and Vijay.

He also said the bond between him and Kolathur transcends elections and recalled that he has worked for them for 15 years.

"With pride in having provided all infrastructure facilities to make it a model constituency of Tamil Nadu, and in fulfilling every demand, I met the people of my Kolathur constituency in person today and expressed my thanks," he said.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

# Time to rethink abortion timelines

In the Supreme Court's ruling that a minor rape survivor cannot be forced to complete her pregnancy against her will, there is a welcome affirmation of bodily autonomy and reproductive freedom of individuals that existing laws do not fully recognise. The Court's ruling came in a case involving a 15-year-old survivor of rape and the plea to terminate her pregnancy in its 30th week. Notably, the Court also recommended an amendment to the law to remove the time limit on terminating unwanted pregnancies when it involves minor rape victims. A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymala Bagchi refused to entertain a petition filed by the government against the Court's recent decision to allow the termination of the pregnancy. The government and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) had argued that the pregnancy was advanced, making its termination illegal and raising safety concerns.

The apex court said the decision regarding the termination of pregnancy was for the survivor and her parents to take, not the doctors or the government. It said the government could help the survivor by providing her counsellors. While ruling that unwanted pregnancies cannot be burdened on survivors, the Court underlined the "citizen's autonomy of choice," which the State must respect. In its original form, the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act prescribed a gestational time limit for conducting abortions. This was done in the interest of the pregnant women's health. Subsequent amendments extended this time limit – now it is at 24 weeks of gestation – and increased the number of categories under which women could seek abortion. However, opposition to abortions and these amendments has persisted; some of this resistance comes from entrenched societal attitudes.

**The SC ruling affirms bodily autonomy, keeping rights and lived realities at its centre**

With its ruling, the Court has emphatically rejected these attitudes. Its message is clear: "Law needs to be organic and in sync with evolving times." A progressive society cannot base its laws on outdated ideas and attitudes. The legal framework must factor in the complex lived realities of an unwed, minor mother and her child in a patriarchal society. Amending the law will be a critical step towards ensuring real autonomy of choice for her. The law should accommodate her and protect her dignity as an individual; it cannot be used as a tool to restrict her choices. By prioritising her interests, the Supreme Court has made an important call to abide by constitutional morality, which puts the right to choice of individuals at its centre.

# A guarantee push for education reform

The eight education guarantees announced by the Karnataka government mark a welcome shift from incremental tinkering to a system-wide reform agenda. The decision to spell out clear, time-bound commitments signals intent and accountability. The guarantees address long-standing structural gaps. First, eliminating teacher shortages – one teacher per class up to Grade 5 and subject-wise teachers thereafter – targets the most basic deficit in learning. Second, allowing the medium of instruction to reflect parental preference, with English alongside Kannada and backed by teacher training, recognises both aspiration and practicality. Third, free transportation for Karnataka Public Schools (KPS) students could significantly reduce rural dropouts. Equally important is the fourth guarantee: digital education, with computer learning from Grade 1 and exposure to artificial intelligence from Grade 3, alongside phased appointment of computer teachers. The fifth and sixth guarantees – dedicated teachers for art, music, and physical education, and separate staff for non-teaching tasks – seek to restore balance in classrooms constrained by overload. The seventh introduces lesson-based assessments and mandatory bi-monthly parent-teacher meetings, embedding accountability. Finally, exposure to skill education and competitive exam coaching from Grade 6 attempts to bridge the divide between schooling and employability. The government has also set for itself the task of making its own schools the best in the country in three years.

**Karnataka drops quick fixes for time-bound policy. Can ambition meet real results?**

The historic examination results have clearly emboldened the government. The SSLC pass percentage stands at an unprecedented 94.1%, while the second PUC results have reached 86.48%. More telling is the performance of government institutions. In SSLC, government schools recorded a sharp jump, with an overall pass percentage nearing 94%. Rural schools, largely government-run, outperformed their urban counterparts, while residential institutions serving the most disadvantaged also exceeded the state average. In PUC, government colleges improved dramatically to 78.72% from 57.11% last year, with a surge in institutions recording 100% results. For perhaps the first time, the government issued full front-page advertisements inviting admissions to state-run schools – an approach typically associated with elite private institutions.

This newfound confidence must be matched with sustained delivery. Karnataka's education budget, which hovers around 12%, needs a meaningful increase. Beyond public spending, there is scope to tap corporate social responsibility funds and mobilise alumni networks to strengthen infrastructure. It is refreshing that the government is offering more than free textbooks, uniforms, midday meals, and milk. The real guarantee lies in quality. The targets are aspirational, and if implemented in letter and spirit, the state will become a model for others to emulate.

MISSION INTEGRATION

# India's complex quest for Multi-Domain Operations

The pursuit of advanced joint military capabilities may come at the cost of essential war-fighting fundamentals

**LT GEN HARINDER SINGH (RETD)**

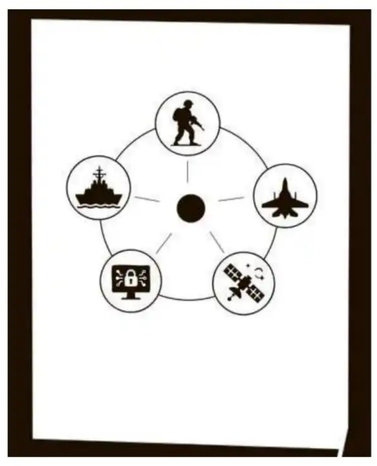
Military doctrines and concepts are flexible. They change with the introduction of new technologies and ideas. Thus, tracing their evolution and future applicability can be a difficult proposition. The development of Multi-Domain Operations (MDO) as a military construct is no different; it stands entangled in multiple concepts and contradictory debates. These debates largely concern conceptual interpretations of MDO, organisational primacy and control, resourcing constraints, and inter-service priorities. This situation is quite similar to the unyielding debate that has marred the theatre-isation of India's armed forces.

In this context, Ran Samvad 2026, the Indian armed forces' recent conclave aimed at creating a blueprint for MDO, is significant. Barring a few useful articulations, the deliberations were marred by jargon and lofty ideas, on which India is clearly not in a position to deliver. Not for lack of good intent, but paucity of techno-industrial capacity to produce the effects that presumably constitute MDO. This would call for a serious intellectual exercise that would have to go from a concept to a doable joint war-fighting doctrine, and on to official operating practices.

Russia's invasion of Crimea in 2014 shocked the West when it realised that ground invasions were still a reality. Military planners soon realised that operational manoeuvres – by land, air or sea – were proving difficult because both sides could easily leverage multiple forms of disruptive ideas and technologies to hit and destroy the conventional forces on a transparent battlefield. MDO is an outcome of these new ground realities, but more significantly, it results from refashioning earlier concepts to meet current battlefield expectations.

Experts argue that MDO represents an evolution of the erstwhile combined-arms concept, with the incorporation of the newer space, cyber, and cognitive domains. It is essentially an intellectual approach to shape joint doctrines on land, in the air, and at sea. Some even argue it is a cross-domain concept, where operational concepts of each service are inter-mingled to produce the desired battle effects in a joint war-fighting environment. Others contend that it is a politico-strategic construct, as several operational concepts within the realm of MDO – like targeting of adversaries' economic infrastructure – are strategically political decisions.

A few aspects stand out. While at inception the idea revolved around the concept of combined arms operations, it has transmuted – in the 1990s and 2000s – into a broader concept of delivering "higher-level" effects. These are primarily envisaged at three levels: informational superiority, cognitive dominance, and penetrative longer-range strikes. Next, it assumes that technological superiority – in terms of battlefield transparency, accelerated kill-chains, and penetrative strikes – is a sufficient condition to claim victory in war. In doing so, it misses the importance of "lower-level" effects while pursuing ground operations at the divisional, brigade, and battalion levels.



### A doctrinal dilemma

Since the 1990s, India's operational thinking, its organisational structures, and choices of technology have been overly influenced by its long decades of counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir. Since the Chinese threat began manifesting in the 2010s, the question arises: what might a conflict with China look like, and what steps might India take to prepare for the next war? Does MDO suit the accomplishment of India's future roles and missions, when our wars would be rooted in territorial disputes? Ideally speaking, the territorial contexts must drive our doctrinal choices for the 2030s to 2040s.

A few questions are pertinent. First, what does MDO mean to each military service – the Army, Air Force, and Navy? If it still means retaining primacy in respective realms of war-fighting, of land, air, or sea, rooting for MDO is a fallacy. Second, when integration between the three services is low-key, how do the armed forces operationalise this idea? The United States had decades of integration behind it before it embarked on the idea of MDO. PLA has its own version of MDO. Third, spending too much time and resources on building a higher-level capability will detract from lower-level effects. Tanks, guns, and aircraft will still be needed to shape a land conflict.

Additionally, with the MDO prioritising battle at the highest level, it leaves the lower-level formations – the divisions, brigades, and battalions – with unclear roles and responsibilities. The question then is, what role would frontline commanders have in future MDO-driven wars, and would these lower-level formations that do most of the hard fighting be relevant? These factors carry serious significance in the Indian context.

For MDO to be a reality, the Indian armed forces will require a change in their priorities and even abandon a few. A change of this magnitude is possible only if the leadership is willing to expend political capital, make hard decisions, find resources, and provide strong oversight. While institutional reforms can set the stage for flourishing new ideas on war-fighting, it still needs to be established what MDO means in the Indian context. Why is it needed, what is needed, and how much of it is needed? Whether it can be realised within a reasonable timeline, and if it takes too long, could it be swamped by newer technologies, concepts, and doctrines that prove to be superior to MDO by the 2040s?

Suffice to say, if resources – in terms of technology, industry, and production capacities – are a constraint and time is not on our side, India must "subscale" its idea of MDO to create the right war-fighting layers – of Command and Control (C2), Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), deep-strike, close-battle, logistics, and infrastructure – which are both affordable and timely, in context of our future border wars with China or Pakistan.

With limited means at hand, Ukraine and Iran have done well in fielding the right enabling layers, even without subscribing to the idea of MDO.

*(The writer is a former corps commander)*

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

# The fur in the pot

The humble urn had captured the crux of childhood innocence

**S RADHA PRATHI**

A line from the bard's *Measure for Measure* played out in my life recently. That morning, I carried a few lit incense sticks to the verandah to place them in a foot-deep terracotta pot. As usual, I put my hand through the narrow opening to place it within. Even before my hand went halfway down, it chanced on something soft and cuddly. I withdrew my hand in a jiffy, accompanied by a stifled scream, frightfully flabbergasted. What could have got into the pot?

Apparently, an animal of some sort. Though we do not house any pets, a stray kitten or, God forbid, a rat from the garden probably slinked in through the open door and decided to rest there. I dreaded the thought of even speculating on the possibility of any other species nestling there. So, I armed myself with a stick, fetched the spray used to kill pests and a flashlight for a better view. Then I wiped my spectacles clean, switched on the light and, with a prayer on my lips, prepared myself to solve the mind-boggling mystery. I gently pushed the pot towards the main door to facilitate the creature jumping out and making an exit. I waited in anticipation. In the absence of action from the creature within the urn, I gathered the courage to peer into the narrow neck flashing the light. I was taken aback to see a tawny furry creature crouched in it.

The colour and the size matched that of a kitten. I recollected that a cat of a similar hue had littered recently in the vicinity. Perhaps she had placed her kitten in the hollow of the pot. I decided to verify my guesswork and focused the torch into the orifice. There was no movement.

By then, I was considerably reassured and emboldened. I breathed deeply and put my hand into the pot and retrieved the fur ball carefully out of it. It will be an understatement to say that I was stunned to see a stuffed owl doll in my hand. A moment later, I smiled at the pot. Just a day ago, we had five little guests. Apparently one of the toddlers had stashed his booty in the pot and forgotten about it.

I speculated on how he would feel when he did remember. Maybe he would cry, mope or sulk and eventually get over it and move on. New exposures and experiences will expand his horizons. He will find himself seeking pots of gold at the end of the endless rainbows he would encounter in his life.

On rumination, I realised that the humble mud pot had captured the crux of childhood innocence and the angsts of adulthood ignorance without much ado. Perhaps this why William Shakespeare wrote, "Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win, by fearing to attempt."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Duality in democracy

The May 4 verdict portrays a fascinating duality in Indian democracy. The BJP's breakthrough in West Bengal signals a profound fatigue with long-standing incumbency, while the South remains an impregnable bastion of regional identity. Vijay-led TVK's surge over the DMK underscores how charismatic, grassroots messaging can disrupt established Dravidian legacies. While Assam reinforces the power of identity-led governance, the broader shift suggests voters increasingly prioritise tangible administrative results over ideological rhetoric. This layered voting confirms that regional aspirations and national ambitions must coexist. Ultimately the results serve as a reminder in our complex political landscape that no party can afford to take the electorate's pulse for granted.

**Vijaykumar H K**, Raichur

## Deeper scrutiny vital

Apropos 'Winds of change: Rising hero, fallen bastions' (May 5), the role of the EC will not be forgotten; it must also reflect on what may have happened and, someday, answer why. Are those who crossed political parties so easily to be trusted? How quickly can they engage in nation-building given their antecedents? One must seriously question the large number of voters who lost their right to vote. It is also important to examine constituencies where winning margins were narrow, especially where many were ineligible to vote. One hopes that those elected will serve everyone in their constituency and state and not neglect any section for whatever reason. Those who have lost must not shirk responsibility but act as a vigilant opposition, committed to the welfare of the people.

**Hemachandra Basappa**, Bengaluru

## What is the proof?

I refer to 'Big sweeps and some questions that count' (May 5). While questioning the robustness of the election process, the author fails to provide substantive reasons for his apprehensions. The West Bengal SIR process has been discussed in the Supreme Court, with the court ruling in favour of the EC. The high voter turnout shows that more and more people are participating in the democratic process.

**S R Prakash**, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

You [BJP] have the Election Commissioner in your pocket. It's very clear that you have captured the entire process of electioneering.

**Priyank Kharge**, Karnataka IT Minister

The blame game is already a lost game, so don't attempt dressing up to play it!

**Israelmore Ayivor**

TO BE PRECISE

*"Didn't lose election. Won't resign": Mamata Banerjee*

IN PERSPECTIVE

# AI dominance: Who writes the rules?

Global powers diverge on AI governance approaches. India must reconcile inclusion with stronger regulation

**SANHITA CHAURIHA**

There is a quiet but consequential shift underway in how nations think about artificial intelligence. For years, the debate was framed around risks of bias, surveillance, and misinformation. Today, the conversation has moved. AI is now a contest over economic dominance, political values, and institutional design. The March 2026 recommendations from the White House make this shift unmistakably clear: the United States is not simply trying to regulate AI; it is trying to win with it.

Across the world, different jurisdictions are converging on very different answers to the same question: who should control intelligence in the age of machines? The US framework is built on a deceptively simple idea: govern less, build more. Rather than imposing a comprehensive federal AI law, the approach leans on existing regulators, voluntary standards, and targeted interventions. It promotes regulatory sandboxes, expanded access to federal datasets, and incentives for private deployment. It seeks to pre-empt fragmented state-level laws in favour of a unified national standard.

The goal is to remove friction that slows innovation while intervening selectively in politically salient areas like child safety, intellectual property, fraud, and national security. Even its approach to copyright reflects this balance: rather than legislating decisively, it defers to courts to resolve whether training AI on copyrighted material constitutes fair use.

This governance treats AI primarily as an engine of growth, as reflected in the emphasis on energy infrastructure, workforce training, and small business adoption, and the insistence on protecting free speech and preventing government-driven censorship. The US is betting that the fastest innovator will ultimately shape the global rules.

If the US approach is restrained, Europe's is defined by structure. The EU Artificial Intelligence Act represents the most comprehensive attempt anywhere to codify AI governance into binding law. It is a risk-based model. Systems deemed "unacceptable", such as certain forms of biometric surveillance, are banned outright. "High-risk" systems must meet strict compliance requirements. Even general-purpose AI models face obligations around transparency, copyright, and safety. Importantly, this is an institutional framework. The EU has created dedicated bodies to oversee enforcement, including a central AI Office, and has mandated regulatory sandboxes across member states to test innovation within controlled environments.

China offers a third model, combining rapid innovation with tight State oversight. It has moved aggressively to regulate algorithms, mandate registration of AI systems, and impose security and ethical requirements on developers. Unlike the US, where free speech concerns limit government intervention, or Europe, where rights-based frameworks dominate, China's approach is explicitly State-centric. AI is seen as both an economic driver and a tool of governance. Regulations are designed not only to manage risk but to align technological development with national priorities.

This creates a paradox. China is deeply committed to scaling AI capabilities across sectors from surveillance to manufacturing. The result is a model of "controlled acceleration": innovation is encouraged, but always within State-defined boundaries. It offers an alternative template that many developing countries may find attractive for its clarity and decisiveness, even if it raises concerns about civil liberties.

### A middle path to regulation

Then, there is India, arguably the most interesting case, precisely because of what it has not yet done. India does not have a comprehensive AI law. It has adopted what might be called a "principles-first" approach. The 2025 AI Governance Guidelines under the IndiaAI Mission set out broad norms of trust, accountability, and inclusivity, but stop short of creating binding obligations. There is no standalone AI statute; governance is spread across existing laws and sectoral regulations.

This is deliberate. India's policy architecture is built around the idea of "AI for All," prioritising social impact in sectors like healthcare, agriculture, and education. It emphasises public-private partnerships, national data platforms, and skilling initiatives rather than strict compliance regimes.

By avoiding premature regulation, India hopes to foster innovation and attract investment. By articulating ethical principles, India signals alignment with global norms. But this middle path is not without risks. The absence of clear legal standards can create uncertainty for businesses and gaps in accountability. As AI systems become more embedded in public life, pressure will mount for more concrete rules. The question is not whether India will regulate AI, but when and on whose terms.

AI will travel where data flows, scale where incentives permit, and evolve in ways that no single jurisdiction can fully contain. The test is over whether our regulatory imagination can keep pace with a technology that has already moved beyond them.

*(The writer is a technology lawyer)*

# Bengal's verdict and the burden of renewal

MOUSUMI ROY

West Bengal's recent electoral verdict marks one of the most significant political ruptures in the state's contemporary history. The defeat of Mamata Banerjee and the BJP's decisive victory cannot be understood simply as a routine alternation of power. It signals a deeper reconfiguration of Bengal's political landscape and reflects accumulated public impatience with misgovernance, unemployment, political violence and a lack of institutional credibility.

However, the meaning of a mandate is never exhausted by the number of seats. In a democracy, an election is not merely a mechanism for producing governments; it is also a moment through which citizens articulate their dissatisfaction, aspirations, and expectations. A large mandate grants authority, but it also imposes responsibility. It gives the victorious party the capacity to govern, but not a licence to appropriate the state.

For West Bengal, this distinction is especially important. The state carries a dense historical inheritance. It has been central to India's intellectual, cultural, nationalist and reformist traditions. Its contributions to literature, science, political thought, education, cinema, theatre and public debate remain foundational to modern India's self-understanding. Kolkata, once a major commercial and administrative centre, symbolised not only colonial modernity but also the emergence of a vibrant public sphere.

Over several decades, the state has witnessed industrial decline, capital flight, inadequate job creation, administrative politicisation and the erosion of investor confidence. These developments cannot be reduced to the failures of a single party or government. They are the accumulated consequences of a long political economy in which ideological rigidity, labour conflict, bureaucratic inertia, weak infrastructure and partisan mobilisation often displaced the difficult work of economic renewal.

The most visible consequence has been migration. Bengal continues to produce talented students, professionals, artists, administrators, entrepreneurs and intellectuals. Yet their success is often realised outside the state. This is not merely a demographic trend; it is a structural indictment. When a region's most capable citizens repeatedly conclude that meaningful opportunity lies elsewhere, the problem is not talent but institutional ecology.

The new government's central task, therefore, is not simply to consolidate power but to restore confidence in Bengal's capacity to generate opportunity. Economic recovery will require more than symbolic investment summits or rhetorical invocations of past greatness. It will require credible industrial policies, administrative predictability, infrastructure expansion, skills development, educational reform, and the depoliticisation of everyday economic life. Investors, workers and citizens must be able to trust that rules will be stable and that institutions will function.

This is where the political significance of the mandate becomes inseparable from its institutional meaning. Bengal's public life has long been marked by excessive politicisation. Parties have often penetrated neighbourhoods, unions, campuses, welfare networks and local administration. The result has been a political culture in which citizenship is too frequently mediated through party structures. Genuine renewal would require not only a change in government but also a transformation in the relationship between party, State and society.

The danger is that a new ruling formation may inherit and reproduce the structures it was elected to replace. Political change becomes meaningful only when it alters the practices of power. If a new form of partisan control replaces administrative neutrality, if political violence merely changes direction, and if welfare delivery remains tied to loyalty rather than entitlement, the mandate will have produced rotation without reform. Bengal does not need a new party machine. It needs a restoration of institutional trust.

The role of the opposition is therefore central. A decisive mandate for government does not diminish the need for scrutiny; it intensifies it. Democratic stability depends not only on effective executive action but also on institutional restraint and public accountability. The opposition must resist the temptation to reduce itself to permanent obstruction. Its responsibility is to scrutinise policy, defend civil liberties, represent excluded interests and offer credible alternatives. At the same time, the ruling party must recognise that opposition is not an enemy of governance but a condition of democratic legitimacy.

This is particularly important in a state where political contestation has often taken a confrontational and sometimes violent form. The test of democratic maturity will lie in whether the new dispensation can break with this inheritance. A government confident in its mandate should not fear dissent, criticism or institutional oversight. Equally, an opposition serious about democracy must move beyond grievance and cultivate programmatic seriousness.

The deeper question is whether this electoral rupture can become a developmental rupture. Can Bengal create employment at a scale sufficient to retain its youth? Can it rebuild trust between the state and private enterprise without abandoning labour protections and social welfare? Can it strengthen universities and technical institutions so that education becomes linked to opportunity rather than migration? Can it make local administration less partisan and more responsive? These are the questions through which the mandate will ultimately be judged.

Renewal will require sustained governance, social peace, administrative repair and a political class willing to prioritise long-term recovery over partisan gain.

*(The author writes about politics, material culture, and economic history)*

Israel has failed to arrest a wave of violence against Palestinians, prompting military officials to urge the government to intervene

# With war as cover, settlers intensify attacks in West Bank

NATAN ODENHEIMER, DAVID HALBFINGER AND FATIMA ABDULKARIM

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

When Israeli settlers attacked his West Bank village, Moatasem Odeh saw his son Amir, 28, fatally shot. Then he was stabbed repeatedly and beaten unconscious.

The attack in Qusra, on March 14, was one of many in a wave of brutal violence in the West Bank over the past two months.

Villagers might have once driven the attackers away by throwing stones, said Odeh, 46, but settlers now routinely carry guns. "We are helpless," he said, "and they know it."

With the world's attention focused on the US-Israeli war with Iran and its proxies, extremist settlers acting with seeming impunity have intensified their attacks on Palestinians across the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Their campaign of violence and intimidation is emptying out entire villages and leaving countless Palestinians fearing what each nightfall might bring.

In the Jordan Valley, masked men sexually assaulted Suhaib Abualkebash, 29, and brutalised his extended family, children included.

In Deir Dibwan, east of Ramallah, Odeh Awawdeh, 25, was fatally shot when he tried to stop settlers from stealing his family's sheep, according to his family and local authorities.

Thaer Hamayel, 28, was shot dead fending off Israeli settlers raiding his village, Khirbet Abu Falah.

"I'm afraid of being in my house, and I'm afraid of what will happen if I leave it," said Maleeha Al-Omari, 40, standing outside her home just steps from where Hamayel was gunned down. "No one protects us from the settlers," she said. "We are on our own."

Between the start of the war on February 28 and April 27, 13 Palestinians in the West Bank have been killed in attacks, hundreds injured and 622 driven from their homes, according to data compiled by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. In all of 2025, the office counted as many as 15 Palestinians killed by Israeli settlers.

Put simply, experts say, extremists have seen the war as an opportunity.

"It's a chance to escalate pogroms on Palestinians while the world is distracted," said Idan Yaron, an anthropologist who has spent years studying Israel's radical nationalist groups, including long stretches with extremist settlers. "Their goal is to expel Palestinians from their lands and make them their own."

The violence, often involving beatings, arson, theft and vandalism, has become routine. The attacks—an average of nearly seven a day—showed no sign of slowing after the US and Iran agreed to a temporary ceasefire on April 8.

Extremist settlers even publicise their violent attacks. One online group boasted that, in the Hebrew month ending in April, the fight "against the Arab enemy in the Holy Land" had seen attacks in 40 Palestinian communities, including 79 people injured, 63 cars and 32 buildings torched, and hundreds of olive trees uprooted.

The responses of the Israeli authorities have generally ranged from unkept promises to address the problem, to blame shifting, to outright denial.

The Israeli police, who investigate crimes committed by Israelis in the West Bank, said that they had opened investigations into some of the more egregious incidents since February 28. They said they arrested seven men in the sexual assault case in Khirbet Humsa and one man, an army reservist, in the killing in Qusra. Yet the police also denied that settler violence had surged in that period, without providing any data to support that assertion.

The force has long failed to bring settlers to justice. Over the past two decades, 93.6% of police investigations ended without an indictment, according to the Israeli human-rights group Yesh Din.

The police force is overseen by Itamar Ben-Gvir, the far-right national security minister, who made his name as a lawyer defending settlers who had attacked Palestinians. Ben-Gvir, who did not respond to requests for comment, was once convicted of inciting racism and supporting a Jewish terrorist organization.

As the occupying power in the West Bank, the Israeli military is supposed to maintain order and protect civilians. Its leadership has repeatedly sounded the alarm about rising settler violence since the start of the war.

Military officials say they worry that the wild attacks could spark a Palestinian uprising that the army could struggle to contain.

Yet the military has exerted little force in stopping settler violence. Soldiers, often the first authorities in the West Bank to arrive at the scene of an attack, seldom detain settlers until the police can arrive. And though they sometimes bulldoze illegal outposts, those are often rebuilt within hours.

Senior and midlevel commanders, speaking to *The New York Times* on condition of anonymity to discuss military issues, say that they struggle to make their troops act against the settlers; some soldiers, the commanders say, sympathise with the settlers. In many cases, soldiers have stood by as settlers attacked Palestinians, according to Palestinians and Israeli activists and officials. Some soldiers even take part in the violence.

Asked about such cases, the military said in a statement that instances in which troops failed to follow orders were "examined thoroughly and disciplinary measures are taken accordingly."

Top army commanders have gingerly suggested that the problem is much broader and extends beyond the military. Settler violence, they say, is supported, or at least condoned, by Israeli politicians—and, increasingly, by the public that they represent.

"I'm calling on you—public leaders, rabbis, educators, parents, and youth—open your eyes," Maj Gen Avi Bluth, the army's commander for the West Bank, wrote in an open letter published March 19. "Don't encourage it. Don't be silent."

Israel's right-wing government, which has overseen a record expansion of West Bank settlements, has minimised the surge of violence, when it has discussed it at all.

It announced on March 24 the creation of a unit in the Defence Ministry to address at-risk youth, as officials often refer to the young men and teenagers perpetrating violence in the West Bank. It would do so by encouraging them to stay in school, play sports, serve in the army and get jobs.

The government has also allocated more money for providing security equipment to settlers, like drones and off-road vehicles. Those are purportedly to help settlements protect themselves but are often used by settlers to harass and attack Palestinians.

Critics of the government's response to settler violence say it has amounted to gaslighting and tacit support.

Senior Israeli officials have suggested that claims of settler violence are simply made up, despite abundant evidence of widespread and organised attacks. Or they shrug off the attackers as few and their crimes as minor.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has described settler violence as the work of "a handful of kids." The actual number of settlers participating in violence is not known, but the most authoritative estimates are in the hundreds. Yaron, who studies Israeli extremists, said the core group regularly terrorising Palestinians ranges from hundreds to about 1,000, with a similar number joining in sporadically. All told, that is a small fraction of the roughly 700,000 Israelis living in West Bank settlements.

Emboldened, some extremists now speak openly about their goals and methods. In a recent podcast interview, Elisha Yered, 25, a leader of a group of young settlers who call themselves the "hilltop youth," talked about wanting to drive Palestinians out of their lands. He rejected the term "settler violence," saying, "It's self-defence," but added that "the best defence, as you know, is offence. We provoke clashes, and we take pride in it." **NYT**

# Address safety gaps in tourism sector

ANANTHAPADMANABHAN

Recent events in the landscapes of Kutta in Kodagu have sparked a critical debate on tourism safety. Following the assault of a foreign tourist at a local homestay, the issue has evolved beyond a simple criminal investigation to expose systemic vulnerabilities within the hospitality sector.

Having been served a drink allegedly spiked with intoxicants, the survivor was unable to seek immediate help because the property's Wi-Fi remained disconnected for three days. While a cook at the homestay has been arrested, both his employer and the property owner are being held for allegedly attempting to suppress the crime. Such a compromise of guest security in an environment marketed as a "home-away-from-home" demands a rigorous re-evaluation of current administrative protocols.

This challenge reflects a disturbing pattern of security breaches across India's tourist destinations, illustrating a chronic failure in guest protection. In 2022, a solo female traveller in Jaipur was sexually assaulted by the host of a private homestay after being offered a drink laced with intoxicants—a chilling precursor to the Kodagu case.

Two further breaches occurred the following year; in Manali, tourists reported a male caretaker filming guests, while in Kerala, hidden cameras were discovered in a private room of a high-end beach resort. By 2024, the crisis shifted to Goa, where a hotel employee used a master key to enter a guest's room at night, sparking national outrage over the lack of staff background checks.

A pattern of failure is particularly acute in regions like Kodagu, where tourism is the economic lifeblood, contributing 14.6% to the local GDP. However, a growth rate of nearly 200% in recent years has outpaced regulatory frameworks, leaving thousands of homestays operating within an "informal" economy. A non-functional digital registration portal has exacerbated this regulatory grey zone and hindered official oversight.

Without a centralised database, there is often no record of employees, no verification of safety standards, and limited accountability for operators. While the recent revocation of licences provides immediate recourse, a sustainable solution requires a proactive shift towards comprehensive governance.

This transformation requires a fundamental change in how travellers' experiences are defined. Just as the burgeoning discourse around the "right to disconnect" is beginning to reshape the boundaries of the modern workplace, a parallel "right to safety" must emerge to redefine the hospitality sector. This framework moves security from an operational variable to a statutory requirement, guaranteed by a transparent and digitally enabled oversight system. Fixing the current regulatory inertia requires transitioning to a mandated tourism department portal that facilitates real-time monitoring and public verification. Standardised systems, involving QR codes at entrances, would allow travellers to verify licence status and fire safety compliance. Such transparency serves as the primary deterrent to administrative negligence.

While digital reforms address oversight, the physical infrastructure of safety remains the responsibility of the establishment itself. In the global hospitality landscape, safety is seldom left to chance; it is engineered into the guest experience. International and domestic hotel chains have demonstrated that security is a core component of brand equity. They utilise a multi-layered architecture that integrates high-resolution surveillance with sophisticated access control. Guest and staff movements are managed through "floor-only" elevator access, while digital audit trails ensure that every entry is recorded for accountability. Protocols like these prevent unauthorised activities.

Small-scale operators may cite high expenditure as a barrier to implementing these global benchmarks. Yet, safety must be viewed as a capital investment rather than a recurring burden. The financial fallout of a single security breach—legal liabilities, regulatory fines, and irreversible reputational damage—far outweighs the cost of infrastructure. For a homestay owner, safety is the ultimate form of insurance. Furthermore, as travellers increasingly prioritise verified security, owners can justify higher tariffs, amortising the cost of CCTV and emergency systems over time.

Beyond physical infrastructure, the human element of safety requires rigorous, uncompromising standards. Lack of standardised employee vetting remains a critical vulnerability. In an industry built on personal service, the absence of mandatory police verification is a significant oversight requiring urgent correction. Addressing this requires a multi-agency approach.

India's reputation as a global destination is predicated on the reliability of its hospitality infrastructure.

*(The author is an independent writer)*

## OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

**50 YEARS AGO: MAY 1976**

### Vigil necessary over Sena activities: PM

New Delhi, May 5
Prime Minister Indira Gandhi told the Lok Sabha today that the activities of the Shiv Sena, which had acted parochially in the past, needed to be watched. She was replying to supplementaries from members who demanded a ban on the Shiv Sena. She said, "We know it (Shiv Sena) is a parochial organisation. But it is limited to a particular area. They have in the past acted against the interests not only of minorities, but all people going to Maharashtra from other parts of India."

**25 YEARS AGO: MAY 2001**

### Maharashtra hints at moving SC on boundary dispute

Bangalore, May 5
Maharashtra Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh here today hinted that his state may seek legal recourse, including approaching the Supreme Court, over its boundary dispute with Karnataka. In an informal chat with reporters here, Mr Deshmukh said the people of Maharashtra "prefer a negotiated settlement." But, if the dispute "cannot be resolved, the matter may have to be taken to the apex court," he added. He said Maharashtra has not accepted the Mahajan Commission report "in toto".

OASIS | NAZEER AHMED KAZI

# Importance of moral values

Moral values are the foundation of human character and social harmony, and they are emphasised across all major religious traditions. Whether in Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Jainism or Buddhism, moral teachings guide individuals towards a life of righteousness, compassion, and responsibility.

In Hinduism, moral values are guided by the concept of *dharma*, which refers to duty, righteousness, and moral order. The idea of *karma* teaches that every action has consequences, encouraging individuals to act ethically.

Values such as respect for elders, non-violence (*ahimsa*), and truth (*satya*) are fundamental, promoting both personal discipline and social harmony.

In Islam, moral values are deeply rooted in the teachings of the *Qur'an* and sayings of Prophet Muhammad. The Prophet said that the best among people are those with the best character.

Christianity also places strong emphasis on moral values through the teachings of Jesus Christ. The Ten Commandments provide clear moral guidelines, including honesty, respect for others, and devotion to God. Similarly, Buddhism promotes moral values through principles such as the Dhammapada and the teachings of Gautam Buddha; Jainism's moral teachings are built on strict non-violence, truth, and non-attachment. Sikhism's moral teachings emphasise truthful living, devotion to one God, and service to mankind.

Across these traditions, a common thread emerges: moral values are essential for both individual growth and social well-being.

They guide behaviour, strengthen relationships, and create a sense of accountability.

Despite differences in rituals and beliefs, all religious orders emphasise honesty, compassion, justice, and self-discipline.

Moral values are often shaped by a combination of social norms, cultural traditions, personal experiences, and upbringing. They guide individuals on how to act rightly and ethically in society and help individuals to become good citizens. Moral values promote resilience against negative peer pressure, enhance academic focus among students through discipline, and build essential skills like empathy and responsibility, leading to responsible citizenship and long-term success.

Moral values are universal principles that transcend cultural and religious boundaries. By following these values, individuals can lead meaningful lives and contribute to a more just, peaceful, and harmonious world.

# SC flags biased practice against Parsi women in interfaith marriages

## Says right of conscience cannot be taken away by marriage

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday observed that the practice of excommunicating Parsi women for entering into interfaith marriages is prima facie discriminatory.

A nine-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said the right of conscience under Article 25 (1) of the Constitution is a right by birth and cannot be taken away by marriage.

The bench was hearing petitions regarding discrimination against women at religious sites, including the Sabarimala temple in Kerala, as well as the scope of religious freedom across various faiths.

The Constitution bench is also examining the question of whether the community's religious head's power to expel member(s) from religious life can coexist with the individual's right to profess and practice religion under Article 25.

During the hearing, senior advocate Darius Khambata, who was appearing for a Parsi Zoroastrian woman who married a Hindu man and faced excommunication from the Parsi community due to her interfaith marriage, said such practice is bad in law.

"I am a devotee, I have not forsaken my religion, I am a believer. Just because I have married (I have faced exclusion), that (an interfaith marriage) is not a crime," he submitted, adding that this was a man-made imposition on an otherwise progressive and great religion.

Justice Nagarathna said marriage is the basis of discrimination only if it is a case of a woman entering into marriage with a man from another faith.

The bench observed that such selective excommunication appears to have a discriminatory effect. "The right of conscience under Article 25 (1) is a right by birth and cannot be taken away by marriage. In this case, marriage as a basis of classification is discriminatory against women," Justice Nagarathna observed.

Khambata submitted, "The same principle is not applied to a man. The same should apply both ways.

"And that could lead to huge ramifications not only for Parsi Zoroastrians but across the board. It would lead to some terrible consequences."

Justice Nagarathna further remarked that children of Parsi fathers have the benefit of the Zoroastrian religion because of birth.

"The same thing (should) apply to the wife also. It is a religion by birth; it cannot be taken away by marriage," she said.

# Tiger found dead in MP's Panna reserve; 28th casualty since Jan

**PANNA (MP), PTI:** A recently rescued two-year-old tiger was found dead in the buffer area of Madhya Pradesh's Panna Reserve, a forest official said on Tuesday.

This is the 28th tiger casualty in the state, home to nine tiger reserves, since January 7 this year.

The carcass of the tiger was recovered from the Amanganj buffer area, the official said.

He said that the tiger, recently rescued from Tara village, was fitted with a radio-collar and was constantly being monitored. "The carcass found on Monday was intact, and no suspicious activity was observed nearby. The situation will become clear only after an inspection of the site," said Brijendra Srivastava, field director, Panna Tiger Reserve.

Terming the tiger's death as a state failure, wildlife activist Ajay Dube, in a post on 'X', said, "This isn't just unfortunate - it's a systemic collapse. The lack of stern action against forest officials is the root cause of these repeated killings. High-tech collars mean nothing if the boots on the ground aren't doing their jobs."

According to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), 28 tiger mortalities were recorded from Madhya Pradesh since January. The first tiger death was reported on January 7 at the Bandhavgarh reserve.

# Maharashtra mulls stricter parole curbs for sex offenders

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Rattled by last week's shocking Nasrapur rape-murder incident involving a four-year-old child, the Maharashtra government has begun the process of enacting a stringent law barring parole for sex offenders.

The Nasrapur incident was discussed at the weekly Cabinet meeting, during which Fadnavis pointed out that nearly 80 to 90 per cent of such crimes had been committed by repeat offenders out on temporary release.

Fadnavis noted that a similar law was enacted during his previous tenure as Chief Minister between 2014 and 2019, but the courts struck it down after it had been in force for three years.

Fadnavis, who is also the state Home Minister and Law & Judiciary Minister, said: "About 80 to 90 per cent of the accused in such (sexual offence) cases are those arrested earlier for similar crimes and released on parole, during which they end up committing offences again."

The Chief Minister directed officials from the Law & Judiciary department to prepare the necessary legal provisions and submit a proposal at the earliest.

In a related development, the family of the accused, 65-year-old Bhimrao Kamble, demanded that he be beaten to death at the same spot where he had committed the heinous crime. Kamble's wife and son said: "Hanging is too mild a punishment — he should be burned alive... he should die the way he killed the child."

Kamble, who worked as a labourer, is the father of six married daughters and a son, and has 11 grandchildren. He has two previous similar offences against him. The first dates back to 1998, when he was accused of molestation, The second case was registered in 2015 involving a minor relative.

# ACJ announces winners for 2025 journalism awards

**CHENNAI, DHNS:** A three-member jury announced the ACJ Awards for Journalism at the Asian College of Journalism here on May 3. The winner of the 2025 ACJ Award for Investigative Journalism is Ayush Tewari for his entry 'India's cyber-scam epidemic is part of a multibillion-dollar global industry. This series traces a full arc', published in *Scroll*. He received a trophy, a citation by the jury and Rs 2 lakh in prize money.

The 2025 KP Narayana Kumar Memorial Award for Social Impact Journalism was awarded to Zaen Alkazi for his entry 'Blood on the tracks: Why nearly a hundred track maintainers die on the job every year', published in *The Caravan*. He received Rs 1 lakh, a trophy and a citation.

The 2025 Ashish Yechury Memorial Award for Photojournalism was awarded to Sankhadeep Banerjee for his photo of the Maratha protest, 'Protesters at rest', published in *The Indian Express*. He received a trophy, a citation and Rs 1 lakh in prize money.

The jury was chaired by senior media commentator Sevanti Ninan. Senior journalist Nirupama Subramanian and photojournalist Sudharak Olwe were the other members.

The jury also conferred the following Special Mentions in their respective categories:

ACJ Award for Investigative Journalism: Tabassum Barnagarwala for her investigation, 'Silent killers are stalking Indian hospitals. Who is responsible?', published in *Scroll*. Shivnarayan Rajpurohit for his investigation, 'India's e-waste underworld', published in *Newslaundry*.

KP Narayana Kumar Memorial Award for Social Impact Journalism: Aparna Ganesan for her video report, 'Beneath the panel: The hidden losses of India's solar panels,' published in *The Migration Story*.

Safeena Wani for her report, 'Is India's mega renewables park threatening Ladakh's pashmina lifeline', published in *Down to Earth*.

# MISCELLANY

## ◆ COMICS ◆

### Blondie

SO, WHICH TEAM DO YOU THINK WILL WIN THE BIG GAME TONIGHT?
SNIP SNIP
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THERE WAS A BIG GAME TONIGHT
HOW DID YOU NOT KNOW THERE WAS A BIG GAME TONIGHT?
I THOUGHT THE BIG GAME WAS LAST WEEK
YOU KNOW, IF YOU GOT YOUR HAIR CUT MORE OFTEN, I COULD KEEP YOU UP TO DATE ON THESE THINGS
1-24

### Hagar The Horrible

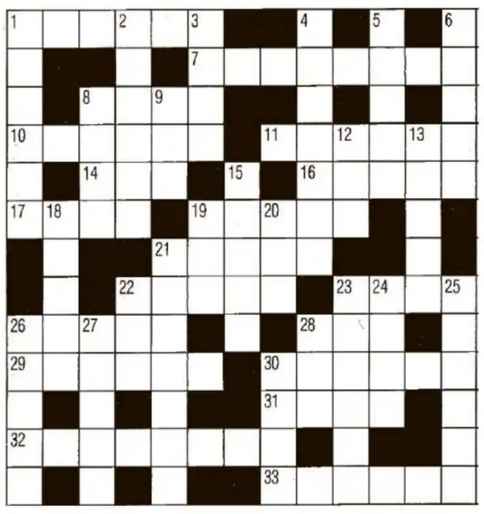
### Beetle Bailey

### Peanuts

IN MY BOOK ABOUT BEETHOVEN, I'VE MADE A FEW IMPROVEMENTS
FOR INSTANCE, INSTEAD OF PLAYING THE PIANO, I HAVE HIM PLAYING AN ELECTRIC GUITAR...
ALSO, IN MY BOOK HE DOESN'T HAVE STOMACH PAINS..
I'VE UPDATED IT TO TENNIS ELBOW!

### Marvin

## CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12410



**CRYPTIC**

**ACROSS**
1 Flying crockery? (6)
7 Past his prime, he may still be useful in the kitchen (3,5)
8 There may well be money in backing it for £50 (4)
10 Errant wives taking a left turn! (6)
11 A high spirited one, this girl? (6)
14 A guy can get attached to her (3)
16 Possibly ruder to an artist! (5)
17 Sleep badly? (4)
19 Continental capitalists can congregate here (5)
21 Is able to get ahead as a cleric (5)
22 Crippen certainly had money (5)
23 Forbiddance to act at the National Theatre (4)
26 Victor's opposition to new roles (5)
28 Not the complete physician? (3)
29 Where, in Iberia, music can take root? (6)
30 Badly hit gym? Definitely! (6)
31 Side of the bed, generally (4)
32 Lovers of the country (8)
33 Part of the railroad I'd sing about (6)

**DOWN**
1 So accustomed to being drunk? (6)
2 Many a complaint has a culinary connection (6)
3 Something a square peg can't do (4)
4 A deputy not of outstanding merit? (5-2)
5 Girl's name for a doctor and monarch (5)
6 A good man and a sound cook (5)
8 Hints from extremists? (4)
9 A little girl actually has more than one (3)
12 He's good for us (3)
13 Find you have to work for your money! (5)
15 Such a piece would be pretty, I imagine (5)
18 In the best position not to struggle to go to work (2,3)
19 Paint it out, that's all! (3)
20 Animal raised, in theory (3)
21 Inevitable in creating endless havoc! (7)
22 By taking a line out from the pier (3)
23 Determined to do good again for the Editor (6)
24 In darts, it's where to toe the line (4)
25 Being difficult on purpose? (6)
26 Form taken by film when you spool up? (5)
27 The kinds you don't want to be out of (5)
28 Performed as an actor (3)
30 A big error when the communication's not timed (4)

**ACROSS**
1 Albania's capital (6)
7 Wedge-shaped tenon (8)
8 Daring (4)
10 Planet (6)
11 Change in form (6)
14 Small barrel (3)
16 Of the sun (5)
17 Relatively long time (4)
19 Baffling question (5)
21 Short letters (5)
22 Turning tool (5)
23 Spoils (4)
26 Valuable commodity (5)
28 Flatfish (3)
29 Rank (6)
30 Girl's name (6)
31 Inform (4)
32 Having command (2,6)
33 Look out of this (6)

**DOWN**
1 Emotional shock (6)
2 Makes amends (6)
3 Appends (4)
4 Confuses (7)
5 Ending in death (5)
6 Change (5)
8 Cook a pie (4)
9 Drag with effort (3)
12 Hill (3)
13 Thin candle (5)
15 Night insects (5)
18 Phantom (5)
19 Container (3)
20 Observe (3)
21 Unstudied (7)
22 Permit (3)
23 Spearfish (6)
24 Biblical murder victim (4)
25 Follow secretly (6)
26 Savoury jelly (5)
27 Ketchup, say (5)
28 Scottish river (3)
30 Hotpot (4)

**SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12409**

**CRYPTIC**
**ACROSS:** 1, Swiss 6, Scrap 9, Painter 10, E.g.-Ham 11, Co-U-pe 12, Mop up 13, Danelaw 15, Me-W 17, Emus 18, Vanish 19, Minor 20, Themes 22, File 24, Has 25, Me-D|C-al 26, St-O-ol 27, Norah 28, Aitch 29, Lo-it-ers 30, Aspel 31, Thi-Rd.
**DOWN:** 2, Wigwam 3, Spades 4, Sam 5, In to-w 6, Secular 7, Cr.- Op. 8, A-pp-les 12, Ma-V-is 13, Depth 14, Nudes 15, Mimi-c 16, Wheel 18, Vow-el 19, Men-t-hol. 21, Haloes 22, Finish (Finnish) 23, Lancer 25, M-Otto 26, Sale 28, Art.

**EASY**
**ACROSS:** 1, Macaw 6, Jelly 9, Doleful 10, Spook 11, Pagan 12, Train 13, Haricot 15, Bed 17, Eros 18, Serene 19, Femur 20, Oregon 22, Mime 24, Nor 25, Mariner 26, Swear 27, Maria 28, Atlas 29, Drizzle 30, Ceded 31, Erase.
**DOWN:** 2, Appear 3, Adonis 4, Wok 5, Heart 6, Jupiter 7, Elan 8, Leaden 12, Token 13, Heron 14, Rower 15, Begin 16, Deter 18, Sugar 19, Forward 21, Rotate 22, Mister 23, Medals 25, Maize 26, Side 28, Ale.

## ◆ SU-DO-KU-6898 ◆

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| 4 | | | 8 | 2 | 6 | | 5 | |
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medium

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| 3 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 1 |
| 6 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 7 |
| 9 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| 5 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 2 |
| 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 9 |
| 7 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 6 |
| 4 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 5 |
| 1 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 8 |

**SOLUTION TO 6897**

**To solve the puzzle:** To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

## SCRABBLE™

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| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | RACK 1 |
| R1 | O1 | E1 | P3 | R1 | F4 | M3 | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 2 |
| O1 | H4 | N1 | C3 | R1 | S1 | A1 | 3rd Letter Triple |
| | | | | | | | RACK 3 |
| N1 | A1 | U1 | T1 | D2 | T1 | S1 | |
| | | | | | | | RACK 4 |
| N1 | I1 | I1 | A1 | D2 | P3 | E1 | Double Word Score |

PAR SCORE 100-110
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

**YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L1 | A1 | T1 | E1 | L1 | Y4 | | RACK 1 = | 9 |
| V4 | Y4 | I1 | N1 | G2 | | | RACK 2 = | 20 |
| B3 | E1 | L1 | I1 | E1 | F4 | S1 | RACK 3 = | 74 |
| K5 | I1 | D2 | N1 | E1 | Y4 | | RACK 4 = | 42 |
| A1 | C3 | Q10 | U1 | I1 | T1 | S1 | RACK 5 = | 104 |

PAR SCORE 160-170 JUDD'S TOTAL 249

## JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

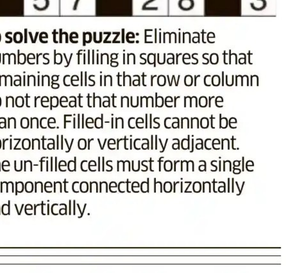
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SIDYA

RNEAA

NAIDNL

CPTEIO


Square wheels! How is this possible?
Math!
Wow, Cindy! You really pack a lot of math in this space.
MOMATH NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MATHEMATICS
The coolest thing that ever happened to math needs a larger space!
10/24
THE MATH MUSEUM IN NYC WAS MOVING BECAUSE IT WASN'T POSSIBLE TO BUILD ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: POISE AFTER BATTER ZOMBIE
Answer: The circus performer painted during his time off because he was a — TRAPEZE ARTIST

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## HITORI-3352

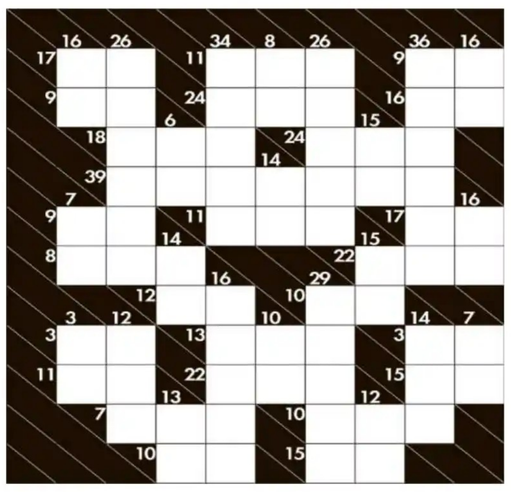
| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 8 |
| 3 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 5 |
| 4 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| 5 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| 7 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| 2 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 1 |
| 5 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 |

**SOLUTION TO 3351**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | 6 | ■ | 7 | 4 | ■ | 1 | ■ |
| 2 | 4 | 5 | ■ | 6 | 3 | 7 | 1 |
| ■ | 7 | ■ | 1 | 8 | 2 | ■ | 6 |
| 4 | 1 | 3 | ■ | 5 | ■ | 2 | 7 |
| ■ | 8 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 4 | ■ |
| 3 | 2 | 6 | ■ | 7 | 5 | ■ | 8 |
| 7 | ■ | 2 | 3 | ■ | 1 | 5 | 4 |
| ■ | 5 | 7 | ■ | 2 | 8 | ■ | 3 |

**To solve the puzzle:** Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

## KAKURO- 3352



**SOLUTION TO 3351**

**To solve the puzzle:** Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

## SU DO KU X - 3907

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | 2 | 7 | | | | 3 | | ■ |
| | 1 | | | | | | 9 | |
| | 3 | 5 | | | | 4 | | |
| | | | 7 | 9 | ■ | | | 2 |
| | | | | ■ | | | | |
| | | | ■ | | ■ | | | |
| | | ■ | | | | 2 | | 3 |
| 4 | 7 | | | | | 8 | ■ | |
| ■ | | 6 | | 8 | 1 | | | 9 |

**SOLUTION TO 3906**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 1 |
| 3 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 2 |
| 5 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 7 |
| 4 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 5 |
| 6 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| 1 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 4 |
| 8 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 7 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 3 |
| 2 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 8 |

**To solve the puzzle:** The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

# Trump tells Iran to stop playing games and 'do the smart thing'

## They should wave the white flag of surrender, says US president

WASHINGTON/DUBAI, AFP/ REUTERS

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday urged Iran to "do the smart thing" and agree to end the war, even as a fragile ceasefire in West Asia came under strain amid fresh missile and drone attacks.

"They should do the smart thing, because we don't want to go in and kill people," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office. "I don't want to — it's too tough."

Trump also dismissed Iran's military capability, saying it had been reduced to firing "peashooters", and claimed Tehran privately wanted a deal despite its public rhetoric.

"They play games, but let me tell you, they want to make a deal. And who wouldn't, when your military is totally gone?" he said, adding that Iran "should wave the white flag of surrender", though it was too proud to do so.

He declined to specify what would constitute a violation of the nearly month-long ceasefire. "They know what to do. They know what not to do, more importantly," he said.

Trump also praised the US blockade of Iranian ports, describing it as "like a piece of steel" that no one would challenge. Trump also sought to minimise the war with Iran, calling it "a little skirmish."

"We're in a little skirmish military. I call it a skirmish, because Iran has no chance. They never did. They know it," Trump said during an Oval Office event on physical fitness among American kids.

Trump often touts the conflict as a resounding success, insisting for example that Iran's navy has been destroyed.

### Pak slams strikes on UAE

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday strongly condemned missile and drone attacks on civilian infrastructure in the United Arab Emirates, PTI reports from Islamabad. "Pakistan strongly condemns the missile and drone attacks on civilian infrastructure in the United Arab Emirates last night," Sharif said in a post on X. He added that Pakistan "stands firmly with our Emirati brothers and sisters, as well as with the Government of the United Arab Emirates, at this difficult time".

Flames and smoke rise after a fire broke out at a shopping centre in Tehran on Tuesday. The cause of the fire was not immediately clear. REUTERS

### Pak Navy aids crew of Indian vessel stranded in Arabian Sea

**ISLAMABAD, PTI:** The Pakistan Navy provided humanitarian assistance to the crew of an Indian offshore tug and supply vessel stranded in the Arabian Sea, a media report said.

The navy was assisted by the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) in the rescue and support operation, Dawn newspaper reported on Monday, quoting security sources.

The assistance operation for the crew, which included six Indians and one Indonesian national, was launched after the Maritime Rescue and Coordination Centre in Mumbai contacted Pakistani authorities and requested help, the report said.

The crew had reported a technical fault on MV Gautam, which was en route from Oman to India, the sources added.

## WORLD AT A GLANCE

### OpenAI president Brockman net worth nearly $30 billion

▸ Greg Brockman, OpenAI's president and a top lieutenant to CEO Sam Altman, disclosed in court on Monday that his stake in the artificial intelligence company is worth nearly $30 billion.

Brockman, who also said he had not personally invested any money in OpenAI, was testifying in a trial centred on the company's 2015 founding as a non-profit start-up, primarily funded by Elon Musk, before it evolved into a for-profit venture now valued at $852 billion.

Brockman's disclosure would place him on the Forbes list of the world's richest people, with wealth comparable to Melinda French Gates.

Brockman.

The civil lawsuit accuses Altman and Brockman of double-crossing Musk by straying from the San Francisco-based company's founding mission to act as an altruistic steward of a transformative technology. It alleges they shifted to a profit-driven model without Musk's knowledge.

### No port for virus-hit cruise ship

▸ Health authorities raced on Tuesday to find a port for a cruise ship battling a hantavirus outbreak, as it remained off the West African coast with passengers isolating after three deaths, AFP reports from Praia (Cape Verde).

The World Health Organisation (WHO) said the MV Hondius could head from Cape Verde to Spain's Canary Islands, though Spanish authorities said they wanted health data from the expedition vessel before allowing it to dock. The ship had been on an adventure cruise from Ushuaia in Argentina to Cape Verde, off West Africa. It has been at the centre of an international alert since Saturday after it was revealed that the rare disease was suspected in three deaths.

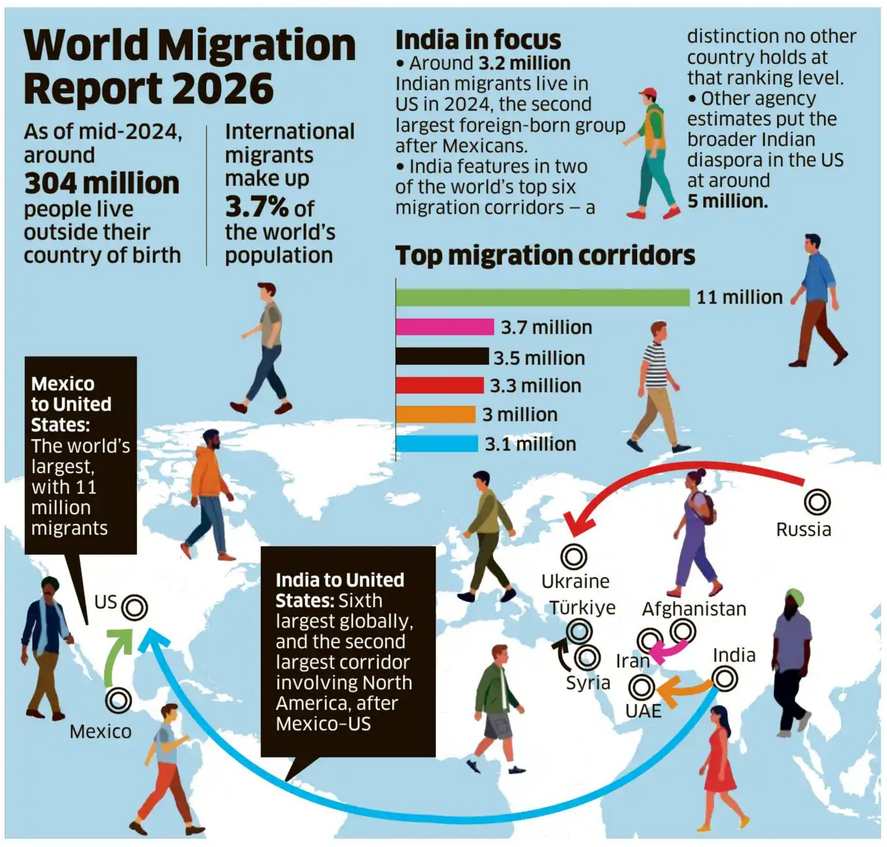
# India-UAE, India-US among top 10 migration corridors

UNITED NATIONS, PTI

India–United Arab Emirates and India–US were among the top 10 international country-to-country migration corridors in 2024, according to a report by the United Nations agency on migration.

The World Migration Report 2026, released by the International Organisation for Migration on Tuesday, said that around 304 million people globally were living in a country other than their country of birth as of mid-2024.

The proportion of international migrants as a share of the global population has also increased, albeit incrementally, from 2.9% in 1990 to 3.7% in 2024. The report said the Mexico–US corridor remains the largest in the world, with around 11 million people. The second largest is Afghanistan–Iran (3.7 million migrants), followed by Syria–Türkiye (3.5 million), comprising mainly refugees displaced by the Syrian civil war. The Russia–Ukraine corridor ranks fourth.


World Migration Report 2026
As of mid-2024, around 304 million people live outside their country of birth
International migrants make up 3.7% of the world's population
India in focus
• Around 3.2 million Indian migrants live in US in 2024, the second largest foreign-born group after Mexicans.
• India features in two of the world's top six migration corridors – a distinction no other country holds at that ranking level.
• Other agency estimates put the broader Indian diaspora in the US at around 5 million.
Top migration corridors
11 million
3.7 million
3.5 million
3.3 million
3 million
3.1 million
Mexico to United States: The world's largest, with 11 million migrants
India to United States: Sixth largest globally, and the second largest corridor involving North America, after Mexico–US
US
Mexico
Russia
Ukraine
Türkiye
Afghanistan
Iran
Syria
India
UAE

# China factory blast kills 26

BEIJING, PTI

At least 26 people were killed and 61 others injured in a massive explosion at a fireworks factory in China's Hunan province, officials said on Tuesday.

The explosion occurred on Monday afternoon at a plant operated by the Huasheng Fireworks Manufacturing and Display Company in Liuyang, a county-level city under Changsha, the provincial capital.

Videos circulating on Chinese social media showed widespread destruction of property over several kilometres.

More than 480 rescuers, organised into five teams, have been deployed for relief operations, with three rescue robots pressed into service, officials said.

Officials confirmed that 26 people were killed and 61 injured, with the wounded rushed to hospitals for treatment. China is a leading manufacturer and exporter of fireworks.

As the explosion site is located near two black powder warehouses, rescuers evacuated nearby residents and set up a buffer zone to prevent a secondary accident, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. Changsha Mayor Chen Bozhang expressed condolences to the victims and apologised to their families, affected residents and society at large.

"We are deeply grieved and filled with remorse," he said at a press conference, where attendees observed a moment of silence for the victims, Xinhua reported.

The Ministry of Emergency Management has dispatched experts to the scene to guide rescue efforts.

The person in charge of the company has been detained by police and the cause of the accident is being investigated, the report said.

# Russia, Ukraine announce ceasefire

**KYIV, AFP:** Russia on Monday declared a unilateral ceasefire with Ukraine from May 8-9, when Moscow marks its annual World War II Victory Day commemorations, and warned of a "massive missile strike" on Kyiv if Ukraine violated it.

Ukraine responded by declaring a truce of its own from May 6, saying it was "not serious" to expect it to observe a ceasefire during a Russian military holiday. The dispute comes amid a lull in US-led diplomatic efforts to end the war, as Washington shifts its focus to conflict in West Asia.

Russian strikes killed nine people across Ukraine on Monday, while a Ukrainian drone hit a high-rise building in an upscale Moscow neighbourhood. "In accordance with a decision of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Armed Forces, Vladimir Putin, a ceasefire has been declared from May 8-9, 2026," the Russian defence ministry said.

# Two Indian schools shortlisted for Global Schools Prize

**LONDON, PTI:** Two schools from India are among the top 50 shortlisted for the $1 million Global Schools Prize 2026.

Katha Lab School in Delhi has been named in the Arts and Culture category, while Delhi Public School Bangalore North has been shortlisted in the Inclusive Education category from around 3,000 nominations across 113 countries.

The $1 million prize, organised by the UK-based Varkey Foundation, celebrates the world's most innovative and impactful schools reimagining education for the future across 10 categories.

"Congratulations, Katha Lab School and Delhi Public School Bangalore North; your approach to teaching and learning powerfully demonstrates how schools play a defining role in equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and values needed to shape our rapidly evolving world," said Sunny Varkey, founder of the Varkey Foundation.

Katha Lab School, located in Delhi's Govindpuri slum cluster, serves hundreds of children from low-income families. Founded by Padma Shri awardee Geeta Dharmarajan, the school pioneered StoryPedagogy — replacing textbooks with storybooks and integrating language, science, maths and arts.

**BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION**
Office of the Executive Engineer, Zone-1,
Sarvagnanagara Division, 9th 'C' Main, HRBR Layout,
1st Block, Kalyananagara, Bengaluru - 560043.

No: EE/SGN/KPPP/TEND/02/2026-27 Date: 05-05-2026

**NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM TENDER (NIT)**
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (Sarvagnanagara Division), BNCC, Zone-1, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Greater Bengaluru Authority or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organization for the Construction of Works detailed below.

**(Standard Tender Document - KW-1, KW-2 & KW-3)**

| Sl. No. | Name of the Work / Category |
|---|---|
| 1 | Repair and Maintenance of Footpaths in Nagawara in Ward No. 22. **(CAT-II(A) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-** |
| 2 | Repair and Maintenance of Footpaths in Hennur in Ward No. 23. **(Others) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-** |
| 3 | Repair and Maintenance of Footpaths in HBR Layout in Ward No. 24. **(CAT-II(A) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-** |
| 4 | Repair and Maintenance of Footpaths in Govindapura in Ward No. 25. **(ST) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-** |
| 5 | Repair and Maintenance of Footpaths in Venkateshpuram in Ward No.28. **(Others) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-** |
| 6 | Repair and Maintenance of Footpaths in Lingarajpura in Ward No. 29. **(Others) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-** |
| 7 | Repair and Maintenance of Footpaths in Kacharakanahalli in Ward No.30. **(Others) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-** |
| 8 | Repair and Maintenance of Footpaths in Kalyannagara in Ward No. 31. **(SC) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-** |
| 9 | Repair and Maintenance of Footpaths in Banasawadi in Ward No. 32. **(Others) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-** |
| 10 | Repair and Maintenance of Footpaths in HRBR Layout in Ward No. 33. **(SC) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-** |
| 11 | Repair & Maintenance of Footpaths in Subbayanapalya in Ward No.34. **(CAT-II(A) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-** |
| 12 | Repair and Maintenance of Footpaths in Kammanahalli in Ward No. 35. **(CAT-II(A) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 25.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-** |
| 13 | Providing Asphalting to Roads at 10th Main, HRBR Layout 1st Block and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 82, Banasawadi. **(Others) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,00,000/-** |
| 14 | Improvements to Roads and Drains at Muniga Layout and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 85, Maruthiseva Nagara. **(SC) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-** |
| 15 | Improvements to Roads and Drains at 14th Cross Govindapura & Surrounding Area in Ward No.77, Nagawara. **(Call-2) - (CAT-II(A) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-** |
| 16 | Providing Asphalting to Roads at 5th Main and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 81, Kammanahalli. **(Call-2) - (CAT-II(A) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-** |
| 17 | Construction of New Culverts in Ward No. 82, Banasawadi. **(Call-2) - (ST) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 10.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 12,500/-** |
| 18 | Providing Asphalting to Roads at HRBR Layout 3rd Block and Ramaiah Layout and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 80, Kacharakanahalli. **Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 75.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,50,000/- (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment Balance Rs. 50,000/- through BG / FDR should be Submitted before Opening of Technical Bid)** |

**Calendar of Events: 1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 11-05-2026. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **16-05-2026 at 11.00 AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer, BDA Building, 9th 'C' Main Road, HRBR Layout, 1st Block, Banasawadi, Bengaluru. 3)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Tender Document is **22-05-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Tenders is **25-05-2026 at 11.30 AM (If possible or next Working Day)**. Further details can be had from the above office.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer**
**Sarvagnanagara Division, Zone-1, BNCC.**

**GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA**
(Police Department)
**Karnataka Police Academy**
Abba Road, Jalapuri, Mysore-570 019 | Ph: 0821-2522057, Email:kpamyc@ksp.gov.in
No. STS/01/KPA/2026/27. Dated: 06-05-2026

**E-TENDER NOTIFICATION**

Two Tenders are invited for Providing Teaching Faculty and other staff members and Providing House Keeping Services to Karnataka Police Academy, Abba Road, Mysore under two cover bid system through Kppp Portal of the Government of Karnataka.

| Sl No | Particulars | Tender No. | Estimated Cost (in Lakhs) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 01 | Providing Teaching Faculty and other staff members. | NO: KPA/EST/30/2025-26. Kppp Portal Ref No KSP/2026-27/SE0095 Dated: 28-04-2026. | Rs. 85.00 Lakhs |
| 02 | Providing House Keeping Services. | NO: STS/01/KPA/2026/27. Kppp Portal Ref No KSP/2026-27/SE0096 Dated: 28-04-2026. | Rs. 30.00 Lakhs |

**1.** Tender Document may be downloaded from Kppp Portal of the Govt of Karnataka. **2.** Last Date for Queries on or before 08.05.2026 at 05:00 hrs. **3.** Tender must be submitted online through E-procurement portal on or before 16.05.2026 at 17:00 hrs. **4.** Technical bid will be opened on 18-05-2026 at 11:00 hrs. **5.** Academy reserves the right to accept/reject recall/postpone the Tender without giving any paper notification to tenderer in the view of this unit good will.

**Sd/- Director.**
**Karnataka Police Academy, Mysuru**

**ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು**

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 03 /2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.04.2026

**ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ**

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 5054-04-337-0-01-154 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ, 5054-80-190-0-01-132 ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ (ಕಾಲುಸಂಕ), 4059-80-051-0-60-132 ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಇತರೆ ಬಂಡವಾಳ ವೆಚ್ಚಗಳು, 8443-00-117-0-16-542 ಠೇವಣಿ ವಂತಿಕೆ, 4059-80-051-0-32-386 ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳು ಅಡಿಯಲಿ. ನ ಒಟ್ಟು 09 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ವಹಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಅಥವಾ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಿರುವ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ (Standard Tender Document KW-1,2,3 & 4 ರಂತೆ) ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಲಗತ್ತಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 3ರಲ್ಲಿ. ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅರ್ಹತೆಗಳಿದ್ದರೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.08.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.500.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಆಗಿರುತ್ತವೆ, ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವ 09 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ (ಇಂ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:32608 (3ನೇ ಕರೆ), 35929 ದಿನಾಂಕ:07.05.2026, ಇಂ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 35736, 35783, 35855, 35854 ದಿನಾಂಕ:11.05.2026, ಇಂ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:31265 (2ನೇ ಕರೆ), 29376 (3ನೇ ಕರೆ) ದಿನಾಂಕ:15.05.2026, ಇಂ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 35883 ದಿನಾಂಕ:18.05.2026 ರಂದು) ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಷಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ತಿಳಿಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು

**"KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED"**
**(A GOVT.OF KARNATAKA UNDERTAKING)**
**Office of the Executive Engineer KBJNL, ARBC Division, Hungund-587 118.**
Telephone NO. 08351-261110 e-mail :eearbcdivn@gmail.com
No.KBJNL/ARBC/Dn-HNG/2026-27/71 Dated:04-05-2026

**SHORT TERM QUOTATION**

This office has invited short-term quotation for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of New 1 x 10.00 & 5.00 MVA 110/6.6 KV step down Power Transformer with Buy Back System of Failed 1 x 10.00 & 5.00 MVA 110/6.6 KV of M/s NGEF make step down Power Transformer as is where is condition at Ramthal (Marol) LIS with maintenance for a period of five years, which includes itemized rate quotation by Authorized consultants /contractors. Submit the quotation including GST to this office before 5.00 PM, dated:13.05.2026.

For more information contact the office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL ARBC Division Hungund.The Quotation will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, ARBC Division Hungund on 15.05.2026 at 11.45AM.

e-mail :eearbcdivn@gmail.com.
Contact Phone Number, M. No. 9741654272

**Sd- Executive Engineer**
**KBJNL, ARBC Division, Hungund.**
DIPR/BGK/RO-NO-14/KSMCA/2026-27

Govt. of Karnataka
**Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru**
**(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)**
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.
No. KREIS/EE-2/Tender-02/2026-27 Date : **04.05.2026**

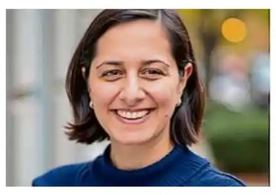
**TENDER NOTIFICATION**
**(Through e-Procurement Only)**

The tenders have been invited for Additional and Infrastructure works, B**orewell work, Chain Link work and Civil Repair work in the jurisdiction** of KREIS **(Tender Indent No. 807, 819, 817, 820, 583 and 816)** through e-Portal vide website : **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on 04.05.2026. The last date for receipt of the tender is **20.05.2026.** The details may be viewed at above website.

**Note :** Any changes in term tender notification will not be published in dailies. It will be published in e-procurement portal only.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer-2**
KREIS, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/YC/502/2026-27

## Biz Bytes



### Biocon founder names niece Claire as successor

**REUTERS:** Biocon founder and chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw plans a gradual leadership transition over the next five years, with her niece Claire Mazumdar (In pic) expected to take over as chair in a phased manner, she said on Tuesday.

Claire Mazumdar is the founding chief executive of Bicara Therapeutics, an oncology-focused biotech firm incubated with early backing from Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw.

"I am not hanging up my boots anytime soon, but I want Claire to succeed me in a very phased manner," Mazumdar-Shaw told Reuters in a phone interview, adding that the succession would involve a step-by-step transition from director to vice-chair and eventually chair.

Before founding Bicara, Claire led business development and corporate strategy at Rheos Medicines and worked at Third Rock Ventures, where she focused on company formation and partnerships.

The succession plan was first reported by business magazine *Fortune India* in an interview with Mazumdar-Shaw.

# Auto retail sales surge 13% in April, driven by strong rural demand

## Passenger vehicle inventory levels rose to 28–30 days, higher than previous month

**GYANENDRA KESHRI**
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Retail auto sales rose by 12.94% year-on-year to 26.11 lakh units in April led by strong demand for passenger vehicles, two-wheelers and tractors in rural India, as per industry data released on Tuesday.

Passenger vehicle retails in April jumped by 12.21% to 4,07,355 units. This is the best-ever number for the month of April in any year. Growth in rural India stood at 20.40%, nearly three times over the urban pace of 7.11%, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) data showed.

This confirms the structural broadening of personal mobility into Tier-3 and rural India, supported by a small-car revival, sustained SUV demand and a richer alternative-powertrain product mix where CNG share held firm at 22.62% and EV share improved further to 5.77%, said FADA Vice President Sai Giridhar.

Dealers cited improved affordability post-GST 2.0, the Reserve Bank of India's supportive rate stance which has translated into stronger EMI comfort, and a healthy marriage-season pipeline as the principal demand drivers during the month.

Passenger vehicle inventory levels rose to 28–30 days, marginally higher than previous month.

Five of six categories registered best-ever April month performance. Two-wheelers segment registered 13.01% growth, three-wheelers 7.19%, commercial vehicles 15.02% and tractors 23.22% year-on-year growth.

However, retail sale of construction equipment in April was 2.25% lower when compared with the same month last year.

However, on a month-on-month basis there was a decline. The overall automobile retail sales in April were 3.01% lower than the previous month.

Giridhar said the sequential decline in sales was the reflection of the customary post-March seasonal reset rather than any erosion in underlying demand.

Majority of the dealers remain optimistic about the near-term outlook, with 55.60% of dealers expecting growth, 35.38% anticipating flat performance, and only 9.03% foreseeing a decline.

Demand in May is expected to be supported by the extended marriage season that peaks through May and June, residual buying triggered by Akshaya Tritiya in select northern and western markets, the new financial-year OEM scheme cycle and sustained replacement demand in the CV segment, FADA said in a statement.

On three-month outlook (May, June and July), dealer confidence remains broadly steady, with 50.90% of dealers now expecting growth — marginally higher than the 49.81% growth expectation recorded in the previous survey for April-June period.

"This suggests that the dealer community continues to view the underlying demand pulse as intact even as it factors in the customary seasonal lull that typically sets in between the conclusion of the marriage season and the onset of the festive build-up," FADA said.

# India most resilient emerging market economy: Moody's

## The country is better placed to manage future shocks

NEW DELHI, PTI

India has been the most resilient large emerging market economy since 2020, and its sizeable forex reserves have helped check currency volatility and reinforce confidence during global shocks, Moody's Ratings said on Tuesday.

In a report on emerging market, Moody's said India is well placed to manage future shocks because monetary policy frameworks are clear and predictable, inflation expectations are well anchored, and exchange rates can adjust when needed.

Stating that India is "better placed" among emerging market sovereigns to manage future global shock, Moody's said the country would also enter any future periods of stress with strong and accessible buffers.

"India's reliance on domestic funding is balanced by deep local markets and sizeable reserves ... Nevertheless, India's relatively high debt burden and weak fiscal balance limit the amount of space available to respond to successive shocks," Moody's added.

It said India had made key policy choices that support stability well before the recent stress period.

Moody's said several large emerging market sovereigns have absorbed a series of major global shocks over the past five years without sharp increase in risk premia or a loss of market access.

This reflects durable improvements in policy frameworks and the buildup of buffers, as well as particularly supportive external conditions.

Moody's assessed emerging market sovereigns' track records of resilience in their funding costs and market access to volatile financial conditions.

It focussed on large emerging market countries (India, Indonesia, Mexico, Malaysia, Thailand, Brazil, South Africa, Nigeria, Turkiye, Argentina) over four stress episodes identified by sustained increases in global risk aversion.

These are the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020, the global inflation surge and associated US Federal Reserve tightening cycle in 2022, US regional banking stress in early 2023, and renewed tariff tensions in 2025.

Together, these episodes capture a range of external shocks that typically generate late-cycle emerging market stress through exchange-rate pressure, tighter funding conditions and refinancing risks, Moody's said.

"Relatively accommodative external market conditions in the wake of recent shocks helped emerging markets absorb successive external shocks since 2020," it noted.

# RBI issues draft norms for banks, NBFCs

MUMBAI, PTI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday issued draft guidelines to lay down norms for acquisition of immovable assets by regulated entities, including banks and NBFCs, in exceptional cases as part of loan recovery processes.

Regulated entities (REs) are, in normal course, not expected to come into possession of non-financial assets in lieu of their regular lending operations. However, in exceptional cases, where the exposures become non-performing and legal or contractual remedies have been invoked, REs may, as part of recovery strategy, acquire ownership of an immovable asset furnished as collateral security.

A controlled and timely disposal of such asset, on an arm's-length basis, may enable the RE to maximise net recoveries while ensuring transparency and prudence in the recovery process, the RBI said in the draft 'Prudential Norms on Specified Non-financial Assets Directions' for public comments. "Only exposures classified as non-performing, in respect of which other recovery options have been explored and assessed to be unviable, shall be eligible for extinguishment in terms of these directions," the draft said.

Specified Non-financial asset (SNFA) means an immovable asset acquired by an RE in satisfaction or part satisfaction of its claims on the borrower, including nonbanking assets (NBAs).

The draft further said REs may acquire SNFAs in lieu of full or partial extinguishment of their claims against the borrower.

Also, a maximum holding period of seven years has been proposed with a view to ensuring timely disposal of such SNFAs. "To mitigate moral hazard, REs shall be prohibited from selling the SNFA back to the borrower or to any related party of the borrower," the draft added.

# Sebi may allow OBPPs to offer tax-saving bonds

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** Markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday proposed allowing Online Bond Platform Providers (OBPPs) to offer products or services regulated by International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and certain tax-saving bonds under the Income Tax Act.

Currently, OBPPs can offer products or securities or services regulated by a financial sector regulator such as Sebi, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai), and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

However, there is no provision to permit OBPPs to offer products or securities or services that are regulated by IFSCA.

"In view of the request made by IFSCA and to promote ease of doing business, it is proposed that OBPPs may be permitted to offer products or securities or services regulated by IFSCA, in compliance with applicable guidelines under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999, including Overseas Investment Rules and limits under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)," Sebi said in its consultation paper.

Moreover, OBPPs would offer products, securities, or services regulated by IFSCA in the manner specified for Sebi-registered stock brokers operating within the GIFT-IFSC, the regulator proposed.


Government of Karnataka
**Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department**
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION BIDAR**
bdr_eemi @yahoo.com eemibidar@gmail.com Phone/Fax: 08482 232080

No EE/MI&GWD/BDR/TS-2/Tender/2026-27/ 1136 Date: 04-05-2026

**KPP -Procurement Tender Details**

1) Name of Works : As mentioned in KPP-Portal, 2) Estimate cost of Work : As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 3) Eligibility of Contractor : As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 4) Amount put to tender : As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 5) Cost of tender form & Details of EMD:As mentioned in KPP -Portal, 6) Last date & time for tender queries/ clarifications KW-1, KW-2, KW-3 Only : **07-05-2026 Up to 17-00 Hours,** 7) Last Date & Time for receipt of KW-3 Only : **12-05-2026 Up to 16.00 Hours,** 8) Date & time for opening Technical bid KW-3 Only : **14-05-2026 @ 11.00 Hours if possible,** 9) Date & time for opening financial bid KW-3 Only: **16-05-2026 @ 11.00 Hours if possible,** 10) For any clarification and details, office to be contacted : Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division Bidar Phone/ Fax : 08482 232080 11) Website details : KPP portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

**Sd/- Executive Engineer**
**MI & GWD Division, Bidar**

DIPR/Bidar/26/KSMC&A/2026-27



**SHIVAMOGGA CITY CORPORATION, SHIVAMOGGA**

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಶಿಮನಪಾಶಿ/ಕಾ.ವಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/05/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.05.2026

**Tender Notification (through kpp portal)**

Tenders have been invited through KPP portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Standard Tender Document procedure to undertake the following works in the limits of Shivamogga City Corporation. The bidders who are interested in participating through KPP portal can obtain the details in website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

**1.**Works in which scheduled caste (SC) contractors must participate : Indent 57571, 56849 & 57181
**2.**Works in which scheduled tribe (ST) contractors must participate : Indent 56697
**3.**Works in which Category II (A) contractors must participate: Indent 57347
**4.**Works in which other contractors must participate: Indent 57286, 57538, 57472, 57565, 57537, 57145, 57511 & 56879
**5.** The last date for submission of tender for the works Indent No. 57286 & 57571 through kpp portal is 08.05.2026 (upto 4.00 P M) and date of opening of technical bid is **11.05.2026 (12.00 Noon).** The date of opening of financial bid for works Indent No. 57286 through kpp portal is **12.05.2026 at 12.30 P M.**
**6.** The last date for submission of tender for the works Indent No. 57347, 57538, 57472, 56849, 57565, 56697, 57537, 57145, 57181, 57511 & 56879 through kpp portal is **16.05.2026 (upto 4.00 P M)** and date of opening of technical bid is **18.05.2026 (12.00 Noon).**
**7.**The date of opening of financial bid for works Indent No. 57347 & 57538 through kpp portal is **19.05.2026 at 12.30 P M.**
**8.** Grants: Corporation's General Fund and Enterprise Fund for the year 2026-27
**Note:** More details can be had from kpp portal and other details from Office Notice Board. Any changes or corrigendum will be notified in kpp portal only.

**DIPR/SMG/No-13.05/zenkar/2026-27**

**Sd/-**
**Executive Engineer City Corporation, Shivamogga**



**GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA**
**District Office, Backward Classes Welfare Department,**
**ZP Compound Kanakadas Badavane, Vijayapur.**
**Telephone: 08352-276932, Email: dobcmbijapura@gmail.com**

**KPPP TENDER NOTIFICATION (Inviting Tender Through KPPP)**

Providing outsource services for Group C and D posts in Pre-Metric and Post-Metric Night Watchman, cook, Assistant Cook, For Hostels & Data Entry Operator & Peon for Offices, under Backward Classes welfare Department of Vijayapura District For the year 2026-27.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | KPPP Tender Notification | BCWD/2025-26/SE0122 Date: 30.04.2026 |
| 2 | KPPP Tender Publication Date | No: BCWD/O.T.T/CR-01/2026-27 Date: 30.04.2026 |
| 3 | Estimated Amount put to Tender & EMD Amount | Rs. 631.64 Lakh EMD Rs.6.32 Lakh |
| 4 | Pre bid Meeting Date & Time | **Date: 13.05.2026 Time: 11.00 Hrs.** |
| 5 | Last Date & Time for uploading Tender in KPPP platform | **Date: 01.06.2026 Time: 17.00 Hrs.** |
| 6 | Opening of Technical Bid | **Date: 03.06.2026 Time: 11.00 Hrs.** |
| 7 | Opening of Financial Bid | **Date: 12.06.2026 Time: 11.30 Hrs (Tentative)** |
| 8 | Address for communication & Pre bid Meeting | District Office, Backward Classes Welfare Department, New ZP Compound Kanakadas Badavane Vijayapura. Phone No: 08352-276932 Email ID: dobcmbijapura@gmail.com |

Interested bidders can view the tender details and download the bid documents from the web site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

**Sd/- District Officer,**
**Backward Classes Welfare Department, Vijayapura.**

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/75/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27


# Bangalore Bio-Innovation Centre signs MoU with NABL

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** In a bid to strengthen Karnataka's innovation ecosystem, the Bangalore Bioinnovation Centre (BBC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) to facilitate global recognition for startup-led research.

Mohamed Adil A A Managing Director, Bangalore Bioinnovation Centre and Ramanad Shukla CEO, NABL Quality Control of India signed the MoU in presence of Manjula N, Secretary to government (Electronics, IT&BT and chairperson Bangalore bioinnovation centre - Government of Karnataka.

Under the agreement, startups operating within BBC will gain simplified and accelerated access to NABL's rigorous accreditation processes, reducing the time and complexity involved in validating new research and products, a statement said.

Addressing the gathering, Manjula said the collaboration would play a key role in positioning Karnataka as a global hub for life sciences innovation. "This partnership will significantly support our efforts to build a global identity in the life sciences sector.

# Gujarat to get two more Semiconductor units

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Tuesday approved two additional semiconductor projects under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), taking the total number of approved projects to 12.

The projects, both to be established in Gujarat, involve a cumulative investment of Rs 3,936 crore and are expected to generate employment for around 2,230 skilled professionals.

Announcing the Cabinet decision, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the approvals include the country's first commercial mini/micro-LED display facility based on Gallium Nitride (GaN) technology and a semiconductor packaging unit.

Crystal Matrix Limited (CML) will set up an integrated facility for compound semiconductor fabrication and ATMP (Assembly, Testing, Marking, and Packaging) in Dholera, Gujarat. The unit will manufacture mini/micro-LED display modules.

Suchi Semicon Private Limited (SSPL) will establish an Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility in Surat, Gujarat, focused on manufacturing discrete semiconductors.

With these approvals, the total investment committed under the India Semiconductor Mission has reached approximately Rs 1.64 lakh crore, a statement from the government said.

## CORPORATE SCORECARD

### L&T Q4 profit slips 3% to Rs 5,326 crore

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Tuesday reported a 3% drop in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) at Rs 5,326 crore for March quarter FY26. The company posted a consolidated PAT of Rs 5,497 crore in the year-ago period, L&T said in a filing to BSE.

"The year-on-year decline in consolidated PAT is primarily attributable to an exceptional gain (net of tax & NCI) of Rs 475 crore in the previous year," the filing said.

However, revenue from operations in January-March FY26 rose 11% to Rs 82,762 crore from Rs 74,392 crore in the year-ago period.

Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) S N Subrahmanyan said that during the year, L&T executed pacts for divesting its full stakes in Nabha Power Ltd and L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad) Ltd, and the closure of these transactions were likely by end of next month.

The group's consolidated order book as on March 31, 2026, stood at an all-time high of Rs 7,40,327 crore, reflecting a 28% growth over March 2025. International orders constituted 52% of the overall order book.

### Quess Corp posts Rs 64-cr profit in Q4

Staffing and workforce solutions provider Quess Corp has posted a consolidated profit of Rs 64.34 crore during the March quarter. The company had posted a loss of Rs 95.44 crore in the year-ago period, Quess Corp said in a regulatory filing.

The loss resulted from one-time exceptional items in FY25, including expected credit loss provision for discontinued projects (Rs 118.7 crore), impairment on goodwill (Rs 25.9 crore) and demerger expense (Rs 13.4 crore).

Revenue from operations grew 6.45% to Rs 3,892.45 crore during the quarter under review compared with Rs 3,656.42 crore a year earlier.

"We closed the year strong with EBITDA of Rs 312 crore, up 19% YoY and PAT of Rs 230 crore, up by 10% YoY. The Board approved a special interim dividend of Rs 3 per share for 10 years of IPO and a final dividend of Rs 3 per share, staying true to our commitment to shareholders in line with Quess' guiding principles," Quess Corp CEO Lohit Bhatia said.

### Coforge Q4 profit jumps multifold to Rs 612.3 crore

IT firm Coforge on Tuesday reported a multifold surge in consolidated net profit to Rs 612.3 crore for January-March FY26, driven by a major one-time tax benefit and strong operational growth.

The company had posted a net profit (attributable to owners of the company) of Rs 261.2 crore in the year-ago period.

Revenue from operations grew 30% to Rs 4,450.4 crore in Q4 FY26, from Rs 3,422.2 crore a year ago.

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, profit more than doubled and revenue grew 5.2% during the quarter under review.

Reported Q4 PAT reflects the reversal of deferred tax liability due to the Cigniti merger, the company said in a regulatory filing.

"Q4 FY26 includes acquisition and integration-related expenses for Encora of Rs 50 crore and legal expenses related to the cybersecurity case of Rs 3.5 crore. ETR for the quarter was impacted by the release of deferred tax liabilities aggregating Rs 181 crore, recognised in the P&L pursuant to the merger of Cigniti into Coforge Ltd," Coforge said.

For the full fiscal year of FY26, Coforge's net profit came in at Rs 1,555.7 crore, a 91.5% increase from Rs 812.1 crore in FY25, primarily due to gains from the sale of stake in Coforge Advantage Go in May 2025.

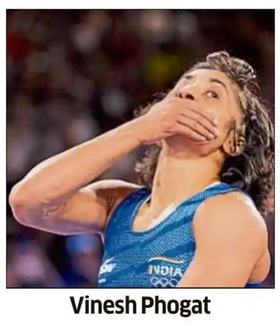
### J&K Bank posts Rs 2,363 cr profit in FY26

Jammu and Kashmir Bank on Tuesday posted a record profit of Rs 2,363 crore for the 2025-26 financial year.

The bank, which declared the annual results here on Tuesday, said it was for the fourth consecutive financial year that the premier financial institute of Jammu and Kashmir posted record profits.

"The bank registered a year-on-year growth of over 13% in its annual profit when compared to Rs 2,082.46 crore reported for FY2024-25, despite a one-time impairment provision of Rs 179 crore on its investment in J&K Grameen Bank during the first half of the financial year," a spokesperson of the bank said.

The bank also ended the financial year on a high with a record quarterly performance, posting a net profit of almost Rs 800 crore compared to Rs 584.54 crore in the year-ago period.



Vinesh Phogat

## ITA serves Vinesh notice for whereabouts failure

**NEW DELHI, PTI:** Wrestler Vinesh Phogat has been notified by the International Testing Agency (ITA) for a missed out-of-competition doping test dating back to December 18, 2025, marking her first whereabouts failure in the last 12 months.

In a communication dated May 4, 2026, the ITA informed Vinesh that the missed test has been formally recorded following a review of her explanation submitted on January 19, 2026. The notice refers to an earlier correspondence sent on January 5, 2026, which had flagged the apparent missed test and sought her response.

The notice is not an anti-doping violation but serves as a warning under the whereabouts clause, which is designed to ensure athletes remain available for surprise testing at all times.

Under rules framed by United World Wrestling (UWW) and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), any combination of three missed tests and/or filing failures within a year constitutes an anti-doping rule violation and can attract a suspension of up to two years.

The ITA said the unsuccessful attempt occurred on December 18, 2025, when a Doping Control Officer could not locate Vinesh during her 60-minute testing window.

Under anti-doping rules, athletes in the Registered Testing Pool (RTP) must specify a daily one-hour slot between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. during which they are available for no-notice testing.

Explaining the circumstances, the ITA acknowledged that Vinesh was attending the first winter session of the Haryana Assembly on that day.

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

# Another cracker in the offing

## Bayern host PSG following a blockbuster 5-4 semis first leg

MUNICH, AFP

Bayern Munich coach Vincent Kompany has promised to stick with his high-octane, high-risk approach in Wednesday's Champions League semifinal second leg against holders Paris Saint-Germain.

PSG hold a one-goal advantage from last week's incredible 5-4 first leg in Paris, where some of the game's leading attackers were given free rein to go for the jugular.

Despite the match in the French capital being lauded as one of the best games of the modern era, Kompany and his side have faced criticism for being too vulnerable at the back.

But the former central defender has repeatedly promised not to change a thing and even doubled down as six-time European Cup winners Bayern look to blast their way to the final in Budapest.

Already Bundesliga champions, Bayern have scored 116 goals in 32 games -- a record in the league and among the best anywhere in Europe.

This approach does leave them vulnerable, however.

The Bavarians have conceded 16 goals in their past six games, with just one clean sheet.

And while Bayern's squad has been heavily rotated in some of those matches, the 21 goals they scored in that six-game run also shows the potency of their playing style.

Suspended for the opening leg, Kompany watched the match from the stands.

The Belgian, who is coaching just his second season in the Champions League, said he saw room for improvement.

"I'm not the kind of person who sees things in black or white. For me, what happened in Paris is perfectly logical," Kompany said on Friday.

"I also would be glad to keep a clean sheet, but what we absolutely cannot do is lose what made us strong."

The strategy has paid clear dividends in the competition so far. Against Real Madrid in the quarterfinal second leg, a Manuel Neuer blunder gifted Arda Guler an opener after just 36 seconds.

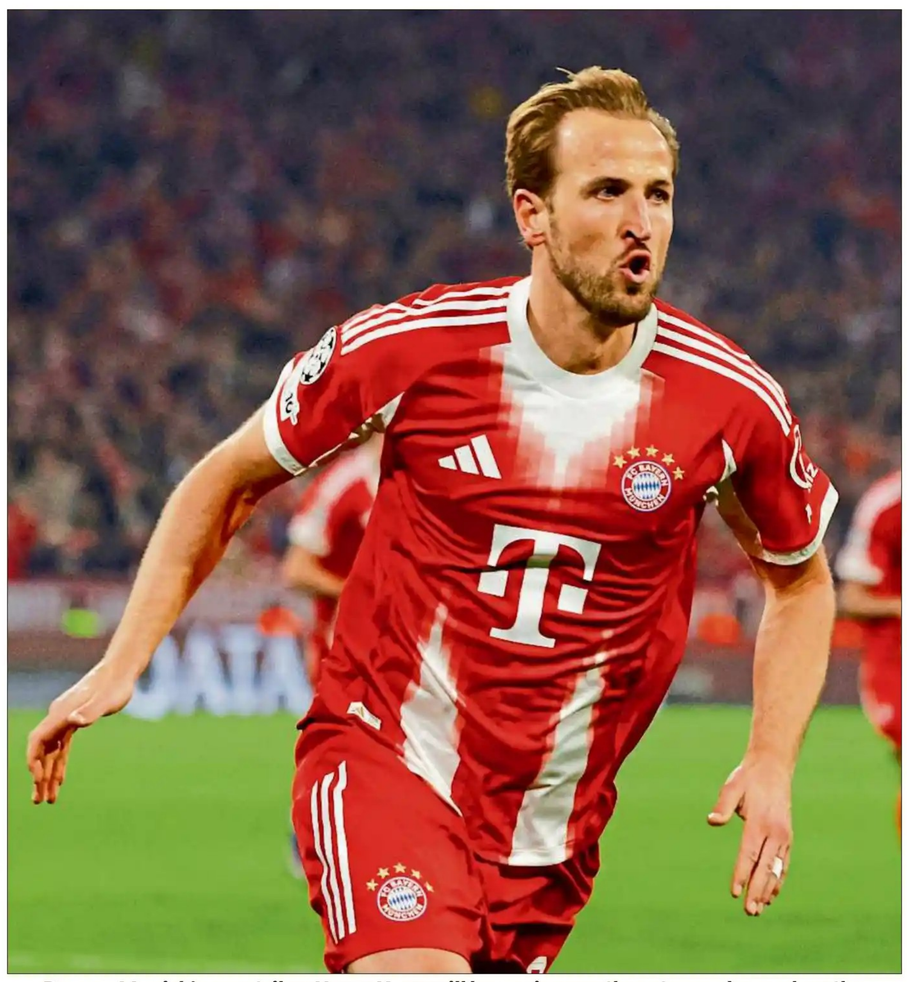
Real took the lead three times on the night but Bayern fought back each time before delivering the knockout blow with two goals in the final five minutes.

Against PSG, the hosts looked to have taken the game away from Bayern with two goals in three second-half minutes.

But Kompany's team pushed upfield and scored two of their own in a four-minute spell to force their way back into the tie.

As someone many of the Bayern dressing room will have looked up to during his playing days, Kompany has built a strong relationship with his squad, who clearly back the supercharged strategy.

After Bayern came from 2-0 and 3-2 down to draw 3-3 with Heidenheim on Saturday with a Michael Olise goal in the 10th minute of stoppage time, Joshua Kimmich promised more of the same against PSG.



Bayern Munich's ace striker Harry Kane will be eyeing another strong show when the Germans take on PSG in the Champions League semis second leg on Wednesday. REUTERS

LIVE 12:30 AM (THURSDAY), SONY SPORTS

# Man City's title hopes take a dent

LIVERPOOL, AFP

Jeremy Doku's stoppage-time strike salvaged Manchester City a 3-3 draw at Everton, but a second-half collapse handed the destiny of the Premier League title back to Arsenal on Monday.

The Gunners now just need to win their final three games to end a 22-year wait to become the champions of England.

City remain five points adrift of Mikel Arteta's team, with a game in hand, and will struggle to recover from the manner of their implosion at the Hill Dickinson Stadium.

Pep Guardiola's side appeared to be cruising to victory when Doku opened the scoring at the end of a dominant first half.

However, an error-strewn second period was punished as Thierno Barry scored twice for the Toffees, either side of Jake O'Brien's header.

Erling Haaland and then a sensational effort from Doku in the 97th minute did however rescue a point which could ultimately keep City in the race.

Arsenal visit relegation-threatened West Ham on Sunday before hosting Burnley.

**Result:** Everton: 3 (Barry 68th, 81st, O'Brien 73rd) drew with Manchester City: 3 (Doku 43rd, 90+7, Haaland 83rd).

Manchester City's Jeremy Doku celebrates after scoring a late equaliser against Everton on Monday night. REUTERS

### Sevilla out of drop zone

**A second-half goal from Alexis Sanchez lifted Sevilla over Real Sociedad 1-0 and out of La Liga's relegation zone, reports AP from Seville, Spain.**

**The Chilean scored the winner in the 50th minute. Sevilla rose to one point above Alaves in the third relegation place.**

**Result:** Sevilla: 1 (Sanchez 50th) bt Real Sociedad: 0.

# Agniputhra lose after red card controversy

## Bengaluru-based club files complaint for re-match

**ADITYA K HALDER**
BENGALURU, DHNS

Senthamil S (right).

FC Agniputhra lost their final Group D match by a 0-2 margin to Royal Rangers following what appeared to be a poor refereeing decision which impacted the outcome the contest in the I-League 3 at the Dravid-Padukone CSE Arena here on Tuesday.

A controversial red card just before half time to Senthamil S caused Agniputhra severe damage as the disadvantage saw them go down to second-half goals by Ashutosh Thapliyal (52nd minute) and Ankit (90+1st).

Agniputhra dropped to second spot following the defeat while Baghpath FC topped the group with a 9-0 victory over New Friends Club and progressed to the final phase of the league.

The Bengaluru-based club, which finished with seven points in four matches, will now have to await the completion of the rest of the groups on Wednesday and hope to be in the top two from among the four group runners-up to reach the next stage.

The red card came in the added time of the first half, when match referee Junaid Tanji made a controversial call by showing a red card to the last-match goal-scorer Senthamil for allegedly elbowing Nitesh Chikkara.

However, the replays indicated that Senthamil never raised his elbow high enough to contact Chikkara.

Given the impact of the refereeing decision, Agniputhra club officials have spoken to the match commissioner and have filed a complaint with the organisers All India Football Federation (AIFF) — along with the video replay of the incident — against the red card with a request to replay the match, confirmed a source.

**Result:** FCA: 0 It to RRFC: 2 (Ashutosh 52nd, Ankit 90+1st).

## Indian archers seal 3rd seed at WC

**SHANGHAI, PTI:** Former world champion Ojas Deotale led from the front as India's men compound team secured a top-10 finish in the qualification round of the Archery World Cup Stage 2 here on Tuesday.

Deotale, who became India's first-ever male world champion in archery by winning the 2023 World Archery Championships in Berlin, was the best-placed Indian, shooting 711 points to finish seventh overall that set the tone for the team's effort.

Sahil Jadhav also logged in 711 points, taking the next spot on X-count, while Kushal Dalal completed the trio with an overall 18th-place finish as India sealed the third seeding in the team event.

Asian Games medallist Abhishek Verma, however, endured a disappointing outing, finishing 25th with 705 points to miss out on the team combination. He will still feature in the individual elimination rounds.

In the women's compound section, former world champion Aditi Swami finished 13th with 700 points -- seven behind USA's Alexis Ruiz, who topped the qualification.

## Sabalenka calls for boycott of Slams over share of revenues

**ROME, AP:** Top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka believes tennis players should organise a boycott if they don't start receiving a bigger share of tournament revenues at the Grand Slams.

Sabalenka and fellow No. 1 Jannik Sinner were among leading players - most of them ranked in the top 10 - who issued a statement on Monday expressing "deep disappointment" over the French Open prize money.

"Without us there wouldn't be a tournament and there wouldn't be that entertainment. I feel like definitely we deserve to be paid more percentage," Sabalenka said on Tuesday at the Italian Open as she celebrated her 28th birthday.

"I think at some point we will boycott it. I feel like that's going to be the only way to fight for our rights."

The players are also seeking better representation, health options and pensions from the four Grand Slam tournaments: Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and US Open.

Madhurima Sawant returns during her win over Maria Mikhailova in the first round of the ITF W35 Tumakuru Open.

# Indians make a rousing start

BENGALURU, DHNS

Indian players put up an impressive show in the opening round of the ITF W35 Tumakuru Open at the Tumakuru University Tennis Stadium here on Tuesday.

Leading the charge was Madhurima Sawant, whose three-set victory stood out as one of the performances of the day. Sawant displayed a fine blend of control and fighting spirit as she overcame Russia's Maria Mikhailova 6-2, 3-6, 6-1.

In another all-Indian clash, Sandeepti Singh Rao got the better of Yashaswini Panwar 6-3, 6-4. Pooja Ingale also came through a tough three-setter, edging past compatriot Danica Fernando 7-5, 1-6, 6-4 in a closely fought encounter.

Sonal Patil delivered one of the most dominant wins of the round, brushing aside qualifier Snigdha Kanta 6-0, 6-3 to progress comfortably into the last 16.

**Results (Indians unless mentioned, prefix denotes seeding):** Women's singles (Round Of 32): Sandeepti Singh Rao bt Yashaswini Panwar 6-3, 6-4; Madhurima Sawant bt Maria Mikhailova 6-2, 3-6, 6-1; Ksenia Laskutova (Rus) bt 7-Michika Ozeki (Jpn) 6-3, 7-6 (2); Pooja Ingale bt Danica Fernando 7-5, 1-6, 6-4; 5-Elina Nepliy bt Harshini N Nagaraj 6-4, 6-1; Sonal Patil bt Snigdha Kanta 6-0, 6-3.

**Doubles (round of 16):** 1-Vaidehee Chaudhari/ Zuzanna Pawlikowska (Pol) bt Maria Mikhailova/ Sandeepti Singh Rao 6-1, 6-2; 4-Sravya Shivani Chilakalapudi/ Zeel Desai bt Yashaswini Panwar/ Bela Tamhankar 6-0, 6-2; Aishwarya Jadhav/ Aakruti Narayan Sonkusare bt 2-Arina Arifullina/ Ekaterina Yashina 6-4, 7-5; Ksenia Laskutova/ Elina Nepliy bt Shreeniti Chowdhury/ Meghana GD 6-0, 6-2; Diva Bhatia/ Jennifer Luikham bt Snigdha Kanta/ Harshini N Nagaraj 1-6, 6-4, 10-7; 3-Akanksha Dileep Nitture/ Michika Ozeki (JPN) vs Kashish Bhatia/ Sonal Patil 6-3, 4-6, 8-4 (rain stopped play).

# 'Priest' Wu conquers snooker world

Wu Yize

HONG KONG, AFP

China's Wu Yize is said to have shared a single bed with his father in a windowless flat as he sacrificed his home life to follow his snooker dreams.

Now, just a few years later, Wu is world champion after defeating Shaun Murphy 18-17 in the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre on Monday.

Wu, who is 22 but looks younger, follows in the footsteps of Zhao Xintong, who last year became the first Chinese player to win snooker's most cherished prize.

Those in the know have long tipped Wu for the top.

In February, seven-time world champion Ronnie O'Sullivan said the Chinese ace would be world number one within three years. In China, Wu has earned the nicknames "Little Wu" and "Priest Wu", the latter mainly because of a previous hairstyle which made him look like a priest.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
**KOPPAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (R), KOPPAL**
ನೊಂದಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:KOL-S243–2012–13 ದಿನಾಂಕ:15–03–2013
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
Website : www.kimskoppal.com email :directorkimskoppal@gmail.com
Office : 08539 225522 Office : 08539-225523
No:KIMS/Koppal/Tender/Lift/2026-27/86 Date: 05/05/2026

**E-TENDER NOTIFICATION**

E-Tender is invited for Maintenance of Lifts and Installation of CCTV's for the period of 01 year at KIMS Koppal Turnkey/Package Basis under two cover Bid system as per KTPP Act 1999 rule 2000 KPPP portal of Government of Karnataka.
**1)** Tender Approximate Cost : **Rs. 13.00 Lakhs**
**2)** EMD : **Rs. 32,500/-**
**3)** Tender documents may download from the **05/05/2026 @05.30 PM**
**4)** Tender must be submitted online on before **19/05/2026 @5.30 PM**
Further information may be obtained from the above office during office hours & also from Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and this office web-site **www.kimskoppal.kar.nic.in**
**Sd/- Dean cum Director,**
**Koppal Institute of Medical Science, Koppal.**
DIPR/Koppal/65/DeshpandePublicity/2026-27

**BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION**
Office of the Assistant Director, BCCC, 4th Floor, Annex-3, Narasimharaja Sqaure Bengaluru-02
Email Id:adahbccc@gmail.com
NO .: AD(AH)/(BCCC)/PR-22/2025-26 Date: 05-05-2026

**RFP Notification**

Bengaluru Central City Corporation invites tender from eligible bidders for Short-term Request for proposal for providing Man power service to Cattle Pound and City Slaughter house, Bengaluru Central City Corporation on Outsourced Basis.
**Following is the Events of Tender process: (1)** RFP Reference No.: BCCC/2026-27/SE0168 **(2)** Date of Commencement of Download of Tender Document from Karnataka Public Procurement website : **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in : On 05.05.2026** onwards **(3)** Tender Inviting Authority : Chief Veterinary Officer, (Animal Husbandry) BCCC **(4)** Tender Accepting Authority : Commissioner, BCCC **(5)** Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in Karnataka Public Procurement portal : Date: **07.05.2026 up to 5:00 PM (6)** Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting : **07.05.2026 at 12:30 PM** at the following venue: Office of The Assistant Director, (ANIMAL HUSBANDRY), BCCC, ANNEX-3, 4th Floor, N. R. Square, Bengaluru-560002 **(7)** Last Date and Time for uploading of RFP in Karnataka Public Procurement portal : **12-05-2026 upto 5:00 PM (8)** Date and Time of Online Opening of RFP in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal : **13.05.2026 at 5.10 PM (9)** Place of opening of RFP : Online@karnataka public procurement portal **(10)** Address for Communication: Assistant Director, (ANIMAL HUSBANDRY), BCCC, Annex-3, 4th Floor, N. R. Square, Bengaluru-560002 Ph. No: 9900229973, Email: adahbccc@gmail.com
**Sd/- Assistant Director (Animal Husbandry)**
**Bengaluru Central City Corporation**

**ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ**
ಎಸ್.ಎನ್. ಕಾಂಪ್ಲೆಕ್ಸ್, ಮೊದಲನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ನಗರ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆ ಎದುರು, 'ಡಿ' ಕ್ರಾಸ್,
ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ–561203. ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080–29562046
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DPA/TP/CLU/03/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.05.2026

**ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1961 ರ ಕಲಂ 14(ಎ) ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು **'ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ'** ವಲಯದಿಂದ **'ವಸತಿ'** ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸದರಿ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯ ಜಮೀನಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ **15 ದಿನಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯೊಳಗೆ** ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಲಿಖಿತವಾಗಿ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನಿಗದಿತ ಅವಧಿಯ ನಂತರ ಬರುವ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

| ಕ್ರ ಸಂ. | ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು (RTC ರನ್ವಯ) | ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು | ಹೋಬಳಿ | ಗ್ರಾಮ | ಸ. ನಂ. | ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ (ಎ–ಗು) | ಬಿಐಎಎಪಿಎ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಮಹಾ ಯೋಜನೋಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಭೂಉಪಯೋಗ | ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿರುವ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ |
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| 1 | ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ವಿಜಯಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀ ಕೋಂ ಲೇಟ್॥ ಚಿಕ್ಕಣ್ಣಪ್ಪ | ಯಲಹಂಕ | ಹೆಸರುಘಟ್ಟ–2 | ಅದ್ದೆ ವಿಶ್ವನಾಥಪುರ | 96/1 | 1–39 | ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ | ವಸತಿ |
| 2 | ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಸೂರ್ಯ ಡೆವಲಪರ್ಸ್ ಪ್ರೈವೇಟ್ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್ | ಯಲಹಂಕ | ಹೆಸರುಘಟ್ಟ–2 | ಅದ್ದೆ ವಿಶ್ವನಾಥಪುರ | 96/5 | 1–16 | ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ | ವಸತಿ |

**ಷರಾ:–** ಪ್ರಸ್ತಿತ ಜಮೀನಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಸತಿ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸುವುದರಿಂದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಕಾನೂನುಬದ್ಧವಾದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳು ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ನಡೆಯುವಾಗ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಕೂಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ದೊರಕುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯಿಂದ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲಿನ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಸಹಕಾರಿಯಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಯೋಜನಾಬದ್ಧವಾದ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ರಚನೆಯಿಂದ ಉತ್ತಮ ರಸ್ತೆ, ನಾಗರಿಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಜಾಗಗಳು, ಉದ್ಯಾನವನಗಳು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಉಪಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂಬುದಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿ ಅಂಶವನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸುತ್ತಾ, ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರದೇಶವನ್ನು **'ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ'** ವಲಯದಿಂದ **'ವಸತಿ'** ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

**ಸಹಿ/– ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು,**
**ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ.**

**ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ**
ಎಸ್.ಎನ್. ಕಾಂಪ್ಲೆಕ್ಸ್, ಮೊದಲನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ನಗರ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆ ಎದುರು, 'ಡಿ' ಕ್ರಾಸ್,
ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ–561203. ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080–29562046
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DPA/TP/CLU/05/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.05.2026

**ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1961 ರ ಕಲಂ 14(ಎ) ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು **'ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ'** ವಲಯದಿಂದ **'ವಸತಿ'** ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸದರಿ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯ ಜಮೀನಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ **15 ದಿನಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯೊಳಗೆ** ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಲಿಖಿತವಾಗಿ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನಿಗದಿತ ಅವಧಿಯ ನಂತರ ಬರುವ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

| ಕ್ರ ಸಂ. | ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು (RTC ರನ್ವಯ) | ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು | ಹೋಬಳಿ | ಗ್ರಾಮ | ಸ. ನಂ. | ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ (ಎ–ಗು) | ಬಿಐಎಎಪಿಎ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಮಹಾ ಯೋಜನೋಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಭೂಉಪಯೋಗ | ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿರುವ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | ಶ್ರೀ ಪಂಕಜ್‌ಕುಮಾರ್ ಎಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಸುಮೇರ್ ಮಲ್ ಶಾ | ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ | ಕಸಬಾ | ಅಮಾನಿಪಾಳನಕೆರೆ | 12/8 | 00–01 | ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ | ವಸತಿ |
| 2 | | ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ | ಕಸಬಾ | ಅಮಾನಿಪಾಳನಕೆರೆ | 13/1ಎ | 00–32.50 | ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ | ವಸತಿ |
| 3 | | ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ | ಕಸಬಾ | ಅಮಾನಿಪಾಳನಕೆರೆ | 13/2 | 00–27 | ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ | ವಸತಿ |
| 4 | | ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ | ಕಸಬಾ | ಅಮಾನಿಪಾಳನಕೆರೆ | 13/4 | 00–05.50 | ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ | ವಸತಿ |
| 5 | | ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ | ಕಸಬಾ | ಅಮಾನಿಪಾಳನಕೆರೆ | 29/20 | 00–06 | ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ | ವಸತಿ |

**ಷರಾ:–** ಪ್ರಸ್ತಿತ ಜಮೀನಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಸತಿ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸುವುದರಿಂದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಕಾನೂನುಬದ್ಧವಾದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳು ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ನಡೆಯುವಾಗ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಕೂಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ದೊರಕುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯಿಂದ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲಿನ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಸಹಕಾರಿಯಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಯೋಜನಾಬದ್ಧವಾದ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ರಚನೆಯಿಂದ ಉತ್ತಮ ರಸ್ತೆ, ನಾಗರಿಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಜಾಗಗಳು, ಉದ್ಯಾನವನಗಳು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಉಪಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂಬುದಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿ ಅಂಶವನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸುತ್ತಾ, ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರದೇಶವನ್ನು **'ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ'** ವಲಯದಿಂದ **'ವಸತಿ'** ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

**ಸಹಿ/– ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು,**
**ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ.**

IPL 2026

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

"Arshdeep is world-class. He understands the flow of tournament. We're happy with where he's at.

**BRAD HADDIN, PBKS ASSISTANT COACH**

Justin Langer

## Skipper Pant is carrying a lot of pressure: Langer

**MUMBAI, PTI:** The Rs 27 crore price tag doesn't always guarantee performance but Rishabh Pant is facing the pressure that comes with leading an IPL team, Lucknow Super Giants head coach Justin Langer said after his outfit was all but knocked out of playoffs race.

LSG lost to Mumbai Indians by five wickets despite scoring a healthy 228/5 and Langer did come in defence of an out-of-form Pant, who has also looked out of sync as a leader. "I don't think the money has anything to do with it," Langer told reporters here after LSG's defeat.

"What I do think is that leadership is a tough position and he is carrying a lot of pressure for the team. But he is chipping away, he is working hard, and he has had a match-winning game earlier in the season," Langer tried to defend the under-fire skipper but didn't sound convincing. We love it when we see him smiling and playing that swashbuckling style of play and he is not far off," Langer added.

Langer said Pant will keep fronting up to the challenges. "We played a practice game here two days ago and Rishi got, maybe 95 off 40 balls or 30 balls or something, and looking at (it) you go 'that's Rishabh Pant at his very best'," he said.

"We've seen him in Test cricket destroy teams at No. 5, and we felt with the way he played just two days ago after we've had a seven day break, that might be a good option for the team."

"Rishi is not far off as a captain in the IPL. As a coach, you got to keep fronting up, that's all you can do, and he'll keep fronting up and hopefully he'll help us get some wins over the next few games."

### ◆ ON TV ◆

**CRICKET**

**IPL:** Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Punjab Kings (7:30 pm). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

**FOOTBALL**

**UCL:** Bayern Munich vs Paris Saint-Germain (12:30 am, Thursday). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV.**

**ISL:** Punjab FC vs Chennaiyin FC (7:30 pm). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 2, FanCode.**

# Samson blinder floors Capitals

### Opener's 87 n.o. on tricky track helps Chennai Super Kings cruise to 8-wkt win

NEW DELHI, PTI

Sanju Samson scored an unbeaten 87 to power Chennai Super Kings to a resounding win over Delhi Capitals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Tuesday. PTI

Sanju Samson paced his unbeaten 87 off 52 balls perfectly on a tricky track as Chennai Super Kings kept themselves relevant in the Indian Premier League with an eight-wicket win over a self-destructing Delhi Capitals here on Tuesday.

After opting to bat, DC's struggles with the bat at home continued as they ended with a below par 155 for seven on a pitch offering assistance to the spinners with odd ball holding up.

Samson and Kartik Sharma (41 not out off 31 balls) forged a 114-run unbroken partnership off 66 balls for the third wicket, taking CSK home in 17.3 overs for their fifth win of the season. For DC, the road to play-offs got a lot tougher with their sixth loss in 10 matches.

While the CSK spin duo of Akeal Hosein and Noor Ahmad excelled, DC's lead spinner Kuldeep Yadav conceded 34 runs in his three overs. He was hit for four sixes in those 18 balls, releasing all the pressure DC had put on the opposition by limiting them to 44 for one in the powerplay.

While skipper Axar Patel did the containing job well, Kuldeep failed to get a wicket in the middle overs to make it easier for CSK. Trump card Mitchell Starc was not able to strike early on though Lungi Ngidi removed Ruturaj Gaikwad in his opening over.

It seemed Samson had it all figured out in his head. Having laboured to 15 off his first 17 balls, he targeted Kuldeep post the powerplay to anchor the chase for his team. His innings included half a dozen sixes.

The opener has also struck two hundreds in his debut season for the storied franchise.

Earlier, DC's free fall began with the loss of opener Pathum Nissanka who failed to clear the mid-on fielder off left-arm pacer Mukesh Choudhary.

Both Nissanka (19 off 15 balls) and K L Rahul (12 off 13 balls) began with crisp boundaries but did not last long. After Nissanka, Rahul attempted an inside-out hit off left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein but could not get to the pitch of the ball on the charge to be caught by opposition captain Ruturaj Gaikwad.

DC laboured to 37 for two in the powerplay with Hosein bowling half of the overs, including one from the other end that produced the wicket of Rahul.

With DC's innings not gaining any momentum, the crowd, mostly in yellow supporting CSK and M S Dhoni, who did not even travel for the game, built more pressure on the 'home team'. Chants of 'CSK, CSK' were heard regularly during the innings.

**SCOREBOARD**

**DELHI CAPITALS:** Pathum Nissanka c Brevis b Mukesh 19, KL Rahul c Gaikwad b Hosein 12, Nitish Rana c Kartik b Noor 15, Karun Nair c Gurjapneet b Noor 13, Axar Patel c Hosein b Gurjapneet 2, Tristan Stubbs c Mukesh b Overton 38, Sameer Rizvi (not out) 40, Ashutosh Sharma (run out) 14, Mitchell Starc (not out) 0. Extras (W-2) 2. **TOTAL (for 7 wkts, in 20 overs) 155.**

**Fall of wickets:** 1-29, 2-36, 3-52, 4-61, 5-69, 6-134, 7-149.

**Bowling:** Akeal Hosein 4-0-19-1, Mukesh Choudhary 4-0-31-1, Anshul Kamboj 4-0-49-0, Noor Ahmad 3-0-22-2, Gurjapneet Singh 4-0-29-1, Jamie Overton 1-0-5-1.

**CHENNAI SUPER KINGS:** Sanju Samson (not out) 87, Ruturaj Gaikwad c Rizvi b Ngidi 6, Urvil Patel st Rahul b Patel 17, Kartik Sharma (not out) 41. Extras (LB-1, W-7) 8. **TOTAL (for 2 wkts, in 17.3 overs) 159.**

**Fall of wickets:** 1-24, 2-45.

**Bowling:** Mitchell Starc 4-0-30-0, Axar Patel 4-0-25-1, Lungi Ngidi 4-0-30-1, Kuldeep Yadav 3-0-34-0, T Natarajan 2.3-0-39-0.

**Result:** CSK won by 8 wkts.

**PoM:** Sanju Samson.

# Toppers Punjab set for tough SRH test

### Shreyas' men would be keen to address batting frailties

HYDERABAD, PTI

Cooper Connolly

**LIVE 7:30 PM**

Punjab Kings batters will be under pressure to halt a worrying slide when they face Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League here on Wednesday.

Punjab, which had emerged as the team to beat with six wins on the trot, stumbled in the last two matches and both the defeats exposed frailties they would be keen to address swiftly.

Despite leading the standings with 13 points from nine games, the margin for error has narrowed considerably, with Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Sunrisers Hyderabad, Rajasthan Royals and Gujarat Titans all within touching distance, just a point behind.

Punjab's recent dip can largely be attributed to a loss of rhythm. Their explosive performances with the bat had covered up for an inconsistent bowling unit much of the season, but the cracks have now begun to show.

The top order, which set the tempo in the early phase, has faltered.

The aggressive approach by the young trio of Priyansh Arya, Prabhsimran Singh and Cooper Connolly has veered into recklessness, resulting in early setbacks and leaving the middle order with repair work.

That middle order, in turn, has struggled to stitch together meaningful partnerships, often relying on individual brilliance rather than collective rebuilding, leading to sub-par totals and faltering chases.

**POINTS TABLE**

| Team | Played | Won | Lost | NR | Pts | NRR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Punjab Kings | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 13 | 0.855 |
| Royal Challengers | 9 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 12 | 1.420 |
| Sunrisers Hyderabad | 10 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 12 | 0.644 |
| Rajasthan Royals | 10 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 12 | 0.510 |
| Gujarat Titans | 10 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 12 | -0.147 |
| Chennai Super Kings | 10 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 10 | 0.151 |
| Delhi Capitals | 10 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 8 | -0.949 |
| Kolkata Knight Riders | 9 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 7 | -0.539 |
| Mumbai Indians | 10 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 6 | -0.649 |
| Lucknow Super Giants | 9 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 4 | -1.076 |

# Given my best every time: Rahul

NEW DELHI, PTI

KL Rahul says breaking the notion that he was primarily a red-ball batter not suited for T20s is something that he's very proud of. AFP

KL Rahul has accepted that things won't always go his way, especially when it comes to his T20 International career, but the India and Delhi Capitals batter is glad that he has managed to "break" the perception of him being a Test specialist.

Last month, the 34-year-old batter smacked a 64-ball 152 not out in the ongoing IPL, albeit in a losing cause against Punjab Kings but the record-breaking knock showed his growth in the shortest format. The Karnataka player has not turned up in a T20 for India since 2022 but remains a Test and ODI regular.

Speaking on JioStar show 'Superstars', Rahul said he is proud of the progress he has made in the last decade.

"Ten years ago, I would have given anything to be part of a T20 team. I was never rated as a T20 player or even considered a good white-ball player; I was branded a Test player," he said. "So, to break out of that mould, develop my white-ball game and come this far is something I'm really proud of. Along the way, I've made mistakes and there are things I could have done better," he added.

"But, what I'm proud of is that I've given my absolute best every time I've played and prepared as well as I could to give myself the best chance to succeed. That's sport; things won't always go your way."

Rahul said he has tried to "stay balanced" irrespective of the results.

"You have to take it in your stride and enjoy the journey... Whenever I feel low about what I haven't achieved, I remind myself of what I have, and it gives me perspective. I still have some time left. So, I'll keep trying my best and see how many trophies I can win."

Rahul welcomed a baby girl last year with his actor wife Athiya Shetty. He said the new role has helped his cricket as well. "Fatherhood has been the most beautiful thing for me. I always felt I had calmness and happiness in my life, but I was so wrong. You don't truly know happiness, peace or joy until you hold your baby," he said.

"When I see her smile, when she gives me a hug and a kiss, everything is forgotten, all my injuries, pain and worries. That has helped my cricket as well over the last year."

# India remain No. 1 in T20I rankings

DUBAI, PTI

Suryakumar Yadav

Three-time World Cup winners India on Tuesday retained the top spot in the ICC T20I rankings followed by England and Australia at second and third respectively.

India had created history by becoming the first team to successfully defend their T20 World Cup title and also win it for a record-extending third time in March, when they co-hosted the tournament with Sri Lanka.

"The latest rankings rate all matches played since May 2025 at 100 per cent and those of the previous two years at 50 per cent," the ICC said on its website. "Sitting at 275 points, India see their lead over England (262 points) trimmed by merely one point, while Australia are placed closer to England at the third place with 258 points," it added.

While two-time winners England have 262 rating points, one-time champions Australia have 258 points.

In all, there is no change in ranking for the top seven teams in the ICC T20I rankings with New Zealand (247), South Africa (244), Pakistan (240) and the West Indies (233) remaining at the following spots.

However, Sri Lanka (221) have lost six rating points and subsequently slipped to the ninth position while Bangladesh (225) have moved up one place to be at eighth. Afghanistan (220) are at 10th with a close margin of gap with Sri Lanka.

Zimbabwe and Ireland are ranked 11th and 12th respectively. "Cricket's rising force in North America, the USA have leapfrogged two spots after gaining six points, and see themselves rise to the 13th place, overtaking Netherlands and Scotland who are at 14th and 15th ranks respectively," the ICC said.

"Namibia was unchanged at 16th place while Nepal (17th) and Oman (19th) jumped a spot each, overtaking UAE (18th) and Canada (20th) respectively."

The ICC informed that the number of teams being ranked are down from 102 to 98.

# KSCA to form Governing Council to run Maharaja & Maharani T20 events

**SIDNEY KIRAN**
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) will hold a Special General Meeting on Friday, where it will formally ratify the Governing Council, in line with the IPL, that would oversee the conduct of the Maharaja and Maharani T20 tournaments, scheduled to be held in August.

According to the KSCA bye-laws, any franchise-based T20 tournament conducted by the association must be run by a Governing Council. The GC will consist of seven members: (a) two ex-officio members: Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer of the KSCA; (b) two members elected by the General Body at SGM; (c) one representative nominated by the Cricket Players' Association (Karnataka members); (d) the nominated managing committee member who is the nominee of the Accountant General of Karnataka and (e) the CEO of the KSCA. The seven members who will form the GC are: (a) Secretary Santosh Menon and Treasurer BN Madhukar, (b) former managing committee members AV Shashidhar and MS Keshav, (c) Anita Bhat Wagle (d) Yamini from AG office and (e) KSCA CEO Shubhendu Ghosh.

It has been learnt that four persons filed nominations for the two posts in category (b), including KSCA spokesperson Vinay Mruthyunjaya, but both pulled out of the election race. Since only two candidates are in the fray, there won't be any polls on Friday and Shashidhar and Keshav will be elected unanimously.

"The right way of doing a franchisee-based tournament, you have to call for a Special General Body meeting, form the Governing Council and the council has to administer the tournament," Mruthyunjaya, who pulled out of the race in support of Shashidhar, told *DH*. "This is as per the KSCA bye-laws. The new committee is just following the existing rules."

Apart from ratifying the GC, Friday's SGM will also approve the budgets for the Maharaja & Maharani Cup. The proposed budget for the Maharaja Cup is Rs 16 crore, that includes Rs 4 cr as broadcast fee, Rs 3 cr as TV production costs, Rs 5 cr as event management costs and Rs 3 cr as infrastructure expenses. KSCA intends to offset the costs through franchise fees, sponsorships and other sources of revenue.

# Medal colour could have been better: Sen

**HITA PRAKASH**
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Indian men's badminton team with their bronze medals at the Thomas Cup in Horsens, Denmark, last weekend. X

Unseeded and carrying few expectations, the Indian men's badminton squad scripted history when they won their maiden Thomas Cup gold in 2022. It was also the first-ever medal for India at the prestigious team event, considered the World Cup of the sport, which began in 1949.

Two years later, India walked in with the tag of defending champions but were sent back by the mighty Chinese in the quarterfinals. That raised questions if India's win in the previous edition was just a flash in the pan.

Cut to 2026, India, this time seeded eighth, entering the knockouts was a practical expectation but anything beyond, once again, was considered a bonus.

For the team and support staff, however, all such statistics and predictions remained outside noise, because the top of the podium finish four years ago had ignited in them a belief that they could be a formidable force while competing as a unit.

With the core group still intact this time, the men's squad made it to the quarters where they defeated Chinese Taipei in a commanding fashion to enter the semifinal. Though the 0-3 loss to France in the last-four stage hurt, it ensured India returned home with a second medal from the competition.

"I think 2022 was special and yes the teams are also pretty similar this time," said Lakshya Sen during an online interaction organised by the Sports Authority of India on Tuesday.

"The title-winning run taught us a lot of things. We used that as an experience to come together; whenever we play a team event, we try and create the same vibe and energy between us. Yes the results could have been better but we are proud of this bronze medal," offered the 24-year-old.

"Had Lakshya played the semis against France, the tables could have turned positively for us."
**HS Prannoy**

If Lakshya saving two match points to win the first singles rubber against world No. 6 Chou Tien Chen set the tone in their last-eight victory over Chinese Taipei, the world No. 11 Indian's withdrawal due to a swollen elbow before the semifinal clash against France proved to be a big setback, according to HS Prannoy.

"I still believe if Lakshya had been in the semifinals, things would have been different. Because he could have beaten (world No. 4 Christo) Popov. That one win could have turned the tables positively."

Unlike the usual format of an opening singles followed by a doubles match in the second rubber, the last-four encounter against France had to adhere to a rare-case scenario of playing three back-to-back singles followed by two doubles contests as the fourth and fifth rubbers.

This was mainly because the Popov brothers - Christo and Toma Junior - who are singles specialists for France were to team-up to play the doubles. In such a situation, the three singles matches are contested to give the shuttlers a cool off period before they play as a pair to go on court again for the doubles.

"It was an extraordinary situation and I cannot comment if it was fair or not because it's clear in the rule book," offered doubles specialist Chirag Shetty.

"France has three really strong singles players who also play doubles. Had Satwik (Rankireddy) and I played the second rubber, we definitely had a chance to go to the final. But they made good use of this advantage. We are still proud to have come back with a medal," added the 28-year-old.

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